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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the CNMI lease one of its Northern Islands to Japan, which plan to use it as dumping/recycling site for debris from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

In a rebuke to the Obama administration, government auditors are calling for the cancellation of an $8 billion Medicare program that congressional Republicans have criticized as a political ploy.

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ASIA

Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and the rest of her party's newly elected lawmakers will not attend Monday's opening session of parliament because they object to wording in their oath of office which says they must "safeguard" the constitution, party officials said.

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OAG: Mafnas violated investigative standards

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» But DPS chief didn't break any law

The Office of the Attorney General has found on-leave Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas in violation of investigative standards and interpersonal standards of conduct but cleared him of any violation of law.

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Japan Self-Defense officials arrive today for Tinian plans

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Japan Self-Defense Forces officials will arrive today to discuss with CNMI officials their plans for Tinian where two-thirds of land are already leased by the U.S. Department of Defense, and the discussions could center around Japan's plan to help fund a U.S. military base on Tinian or the training or stationing of their own forces there.

Tinian was the launching pad for the two atomic bombs that the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in

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'EXCELLENT AND IMPRESSIVE'

Participants of the 7th Annual Junior Mock Trial gather for a group photo after their presentation Saturday morning at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe. All 30 students from five school teams received accolades and recognition from presiding judge Braddock Huesman who described their performances as excellent and impressive.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

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Ethics panel recommends charge of unethical conduct vs Rep Palacios

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Open, public investigative hearing pushed before final determination

A six-month-old Special Ethics Committee is recommending that Rep. Raymond D. Palacios (Cov-Saipan) be charged with unethical conduct as a lawmaker in connection with alleged illegal drug "ice" use and trafficking, but a final determination would be made only after an "open and public investigative" hearing wherein Palacios may answer the charge against him.

If after the hearing the committee determines that Palacios committed unethical conduct, then that's the time it will recommend disciplinary action that may include "reprimand, censure, expulsion, and if applicable, restitution."

Palacios, who earlier said he will not seek reelection on Nov. 6, could not be reached for comment.

He was absent in yesterday morning's House session, which will resume this morning.

Palacios, a two-term House member, was arrested in October for crystal meth-

See ETHICS on Page 4

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Local

United Airlines stops free shipment of vaccines to Pacific islands

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Flu vaccines may not arrive as expected in the Pacific islands beginning this year after United Airlines discontinued the service of shipping them for free as was the carrier's customary practice.

» CNMI hopeful on re-engagement of partnership
» 330 doses of new vaccines received directly from DOD

Pacific Island Health Officers Association's Michael Epp relayed this to its members, including the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in a letter last week.

PIHOA provides a regional voice for the six U.S. associated Pacific islands in their development of sustainable and effective health systems.

The association works to strengthen cross-cutting public health infrastructure in the Pacific islands, with priority initiatives that address health workforce development, quality assurance, health data systems, public health planning, and public health laboratories.

Epp disclosed to members that the U.S. Department of Defense has informed PIHOA that United Airlines has stopped the annual practice—started by Continental Airlines—of providing free shipping to PIHOA member states of excess U.S. DOD influenza vaccines.

The official asked members to communicate with their foreign affairs minister, U.S. ambassadors, congressional representatives, or whomever they believe is appropriate and request their assistance with communicating with United Airlines on behalf of their populations.

Saipan Tribune learned that each year since 2007, Joint Task Force Homeland Defense along with Tripler Army Medical Center and the U.S. Army Medical Material Agency coordinated delivery of excess Department of Defense flu vaccine to the Pacific.

The defense department works with the public health department from Guam, healthcare corporation in the CNMI, health

See UNITED on Next Page

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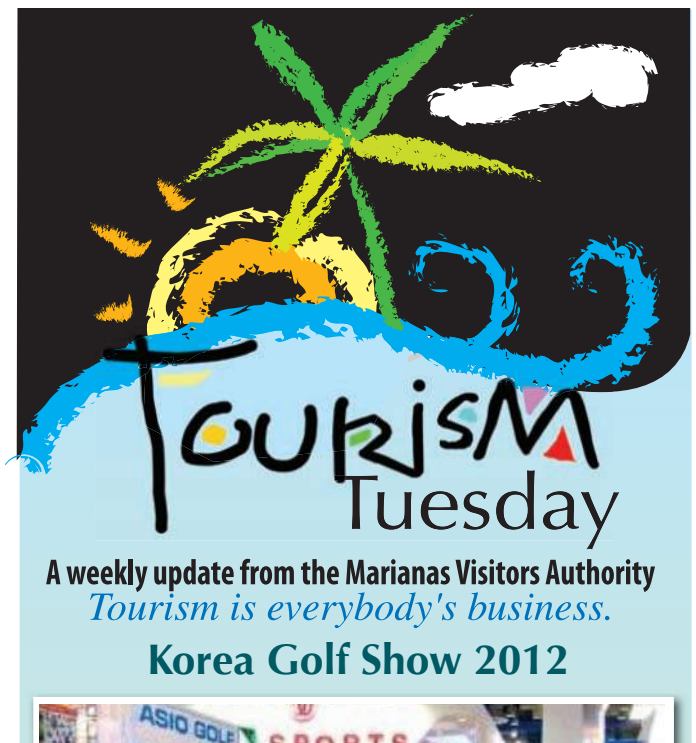

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Korea Golf Show 2012

On March 8-11, 2012, opportunities for golfing in the Northern Mariana Islands were shared with 33,000 attendees of the **Korea Golf Show 2012** held in Seoul.

The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** used the trade show to promote the Northern Marianas as both a premiere golf destination and one of the best vacation destinations available.

In addition to have an informational booth, the MVA was joined by **Hana Tour** in distributing Marianas Guidebooks and golf product procedures. The Northern Marianas special events also attracted 52 participants, and 200 golfers were personally consulted about visiting the Northern Marianas.

The NMI received 12,752 visitors from Korea in January 2012. Of those who responded on anticipated travel plans, 17 percent planned to golf during their visit, an increase of 5 percent over January 2011.

On March 28, the 2012 **Marianas Golf Seminar** was held in Korea and joined by 50 specialized golf travel agents. The event, also supported by **Asiana Airlines**, **Coral Ocean Point Resort**, **Mariana Resort**, and **Laolao Bay Golf & Resort** provided an opportunity for the travel agents to learn more about the destination.

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
Division of Environmental Quality DEQ CNMI

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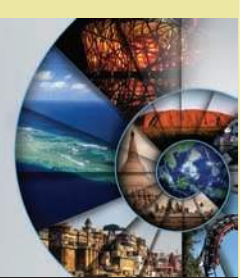

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Tourist drowns at Managaha, 4-year-old girl still at ICU after near drowning

A Chinese female tourist drowned in waters off Managaha Island last week, while a 4-year-old girl nearly drowned at the children's pool at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday.

The Department of Public Safety yesterday identified the drowning victim as 33-year-old Wang Dao.

Police said Dao and her group went to Managaha last Monday, April 16.

Witnesses told police that Dao was seen lying down in the water as the group members were exiting the water to head back to shore.

The witnesses called for help as they applied CPR on the victim. A boat then transported the victim to Smiling Cove Marina. Two life guards administered CPR on the victim on their way to the dock.

The boat arrived at the dock at 2:40pm. Medics brought the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center, where a doctor pronounced her dead at 2:56pm.

DPS forwarded the case to the Office of the Attorney General.

In the PIC incident, DPS said as of yesterday afternoon the girl was still in CHC's intensive care unit.

Police said a doctor stated that the girl has been admitted at ICU for further observation and treatment due to presence of fluid in her lungs.

Police said the girl's stepfather stated he heard a whistle and ran to a group of people gathering at the pool area.

The stepfather found out that it was his stepdaughter who was being assisted.

At least two persons administered CPR and revived the girl. Medics then came and transported her to CHC.

Police placed the incident under further investigation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

UNITED

From Page 2

departments from Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and American Samoa to identify whether or not they would benefit from additional flu vaccine. The Center for Disease and Control sends these islands vaccines each year and each year most of the islands are still short.

The program began in 2007 when DOD realized it was destroying excess vaccine while the Pacific islands had a shortage.

Recognizing this, DOD began the U.S. Pacific Islands Vaccine Program with a pilot in the CNMI which resulted in close 8,000 doses being sent.

It was learned that the CNMI pilot was successful and the following year DOD expanded the program to include the six locations sending 26,500 doses which was valued at close to $260,000.

According to PIHOA, every year Hawaiian Airlines and Continental Micronesia has partnered with DOD to fly the donated flu vaccine at no cost. Hawaiian Airlines flew the vaccine out this year to American Samoa but for Guam, the CNMI, Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands these all dependent on Continental, and now United Airlines.

Based on the information shared by PIHOA to its members, the airlines' regional sales manager for southwest region, Bill Conrad, sent a letter to the DOD on its decision to discontinue the service.

Conrad, in his letter to DOD, indicated that "while I do believe that this is a worthy cause, unfortunately is does not align with our overall corporate efforts and strategies," adding that it will not able to extend any gratis support for this movement.

Warren Villagomez, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. director for emergency preparedness, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* about the latest decision from the United Airlines.

However, he said new flu vaccines indeed came in on April 15 with 330 doses directly from the U.S. Department of Defense, as a result of the airline's decision. Villagomez is hopeful that free shipment of the flu vaccine will resume in the near future.

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ETHICS

From Page 1

amphetamine or "ice" trafficking.

But the Special Ethics Committee's report on Palacios needs to be adopted first by the full House of Representatives before a hearing could be held.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Special Ethics Committee, said the House cannot act on the report today because it would be the same session as yesterday after going into recess.

The 16-page report, dated April 11, 2012, was pre-filed yesterday morning.

Once the full House adopts Special Ethics Committee Report 17-2, the panel recommends setting an open and public investigative hearing pursuant to Rule XV Section 2 subsections (c) (4) clause (C) and (D) which requires that the hearing shall be upon at least 30 days notice.

The committee this recommends setting the hearing for May 13, 2012, or the first available date 30 days after the House adopts the report.

At the committee hearing, Palacios "may respond to the charges."

After the hearing, the special panel will make a final determination and issue a Special Committee Report as to whether there are facts justifying a finding of unethical conduct upon completion of the hearing.

This report will then be transmitted to the speaker for further disposition.

If the committee finds no unethical conduct was committed, it will render a final decision to this effect.

"If, however, there is basis to find that Rep. Palacios did commit acts that constitute unethical conduct, the committee will render a specific recommendation in its final report for disciplinary action that may include: reprimand, censure, expulsion, and if applicable, restitution," the special committee said.

Signatures

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) created the Special Ethics Committee in October and appointed Camacho to chair it.

The other appointed members are Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

However, only four of seven committee members signed off on the report. They are Camacho, Fred Deleon Guerrero, Santos, and Villagomez.

The minority leader, Yumul and Conner didn't sign off on the report.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero said this is because from the very start, he informed the speaker "to let the justice system take its course and that I declined to be in the committee."

The criminal case against Palacios is still proceeding.

Ethical considerations

The committee said its decision was based on ethical considerations and standards of decorum and conduct befitting an elected public official.

It said while it reviewed information and issues relating to the criminal case against Palacios, the committee did not focus exclusively on alleged criminal activity because the applicable and relevant scope of inquiry did not require that the panel consider criminal or civil penalties, if any, outside those sanctions provided in the House of Representatives Rules of Procedure.

"For the sake of clarity, the committee determined that the outcome or verdict in the underlying criminal case was not a relevant factor to be considered in determining whether the rules of the House were violated," the committee said.

It added that the standard of proof "beyond a reasonable doubt" was not applicable to the committee's inquiry because it needs to decide if criminal activity occurred.

"This report and our investigation are totally independent and separate from any criminal investigation or court verdict, if any, relating to Rep. Palacios' criminal matter," the committee said.

The alleged unethical issues considered all readily available and reasonably obtained evidence concerning Palacios' alleged misconduct included recordings of media interviews with Palacios and printed or aired materials on those interviews, along with the affidavit of probable cause in the criminal matter.

In its conclusion, the committee recommends convening a Special Ethics Committee Hearing where relevant evidence may be presented and Palacios "will be afforded an opportunity to respond to charges that he violated the Code of Official Conduct."

The decision at the hearing will be made by considering two questions: "Did Palacios "conduct himself at all times, in a manner which shall reflect credibly on the House of Representatives?" and "Did Palacios adhere to the spirit and the letter of the House of Representatives and to the policies thereof?"

In different media interviews, Palacios denied selling "ice" but said he might have used drugs in the past, and that there were times in the past when he would help a family member get drugs, something that he said he shouldn't have done.

Palacios tested negative for drugs based on the Jan. 12 results of a drug test he took on Jan. 5.

At the time, he said he hopes the test results will help remove suspicion in anyone's mind about him.

Still, critics said "ice," which the lawmaker was suspected of using, stays in the system for only a few days so Palacios' drug test result may be accurate but he could have used "ice" before or after the time he underwent the testing.

Palacios stepped down as chairman of the House Committee on Education in early November, but has since remained a member of the 17th House of Representatives.

MAFNAS

From Page 1

At a news briefing yesterday at the OAG's Criminal Division, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham pointed out that while not as serious as a violation of law, a violation of investigative standards is a matter of significance warranting serious consideration by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The OAG also determined that Mafnas violated DPS operating protocols, which suggest the need for the commissioner to have additional management oversight and possible training.

The OAG found Mafnas in violation of an interpersonal standards of conduct, which suggests follow-up and possible training needs.

The OAG concluded as unfounded seven other allegations against the commissioner.

Buckingham, chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley, and OAG chief investigator Vicente Babauta completed in a 25-day period the investigation report. The 74-page report that mostly contains exhibits, was then submitted to Gov. Fitial on Friday.

Buckingham said that, on March 26, 2012, Fitial requested OAG to conduct investigation concerning Mafnas, prompting him on that same day to ask chief prosecutor Prestley and OAG chief investigator Babauta to work with him.

The AG said he also invited the participation from the U.S. Attorney's Office, but that he did not get a formal response.

"As we got to work, one of the things that we looked at was we were asked to investigate issues that were raised in the petition," said Buckingham, referring to a petition signed by over 140 DPS personnel that seeks for the removal of Mafnas as commissioner.

The allegations in the petition include authoritarian leadership, confrontational approach, micro-management, and lack of faith and trust in the staff of DPS.

Buckingham said they went back to the petition's two prime authors—Police captains Lawrence Camacho and Pete Guerrero.

Babauta was asked to separately interview Capts. Camacho and Guerrero to obtain specific examples of each of the four general allegations.

The OAG found Mafnas in violation of investigative standards pertaining to him not preparing a witness summary in connection with the investigation into the murder of Emerita Romero, and investigation at Suicide Cliff.

During a briefing in the Romero homicide case, Mafnas told Capt. Camacho that he had personally spoken to a witness and obtained a statement that conflicted with the statement DPS investigators obtained.

Camacho told the commissioner that he owed him (captain) a self-statement about his conversation with the witness.

Mafnas refused and said he did not owe Camacho a "god damn statement."

Buckingham said they determined that it best fit as an interpersonal issue.

"The captain said I want you to get me a report. Well, you got the commissioner, deputy commissioner, police director, and then the captain. So the captain is somebody three levels down from the commissioner," the AG said.

The next issue, Buckingham said, is whether or not Mafnas should have prepared a witness summary because according to Capt. Camacho, the commissioner interviewed a key homicide witness and did not provide a written summary.

In this case, Buckingham said, the commissioner's failure to submit a self-statement was inappropriate and inconsistent with his duty to adhere to appropriate investigative standards.

The AG said the standard protocol is to provide a self-statement whenever an investigator conducts a witness interview.

Buckingham said chief prosecutor Prestley is going to need that statement when the OAG will go ahead and prosecute the case as a homicide.

"So you don't want to have interviews conducted by law enforcement when there's not a record of who said what," Buckingham said.

With respect to the Suicide Cliff investigation, Mafnas shouted at a security guard and directed him to move his car to a different area.

When the security guard tried to explain, Mafnas became irritated and demanded to see his driver's license and car registration. Mafnas then allegedly asked the guard whether he wanted the commissioner to arrest, handcuff, and shoot him.

The OAG said this activity involves performance at what would be a routine police officer function.

"While not unlawful to be performed by the commissioner, such activities should be undertaken in accordance with applicable standards of a police officer. This was not done in this case," the OAG report said.

Buckingham said they concluded that what Mafnas did was inappropriate, but their conclusion is that there was no violation of law.

Prestley said no evidence that Mafnas had any gun in his possession at the time.

"It's more like there was a suggestion that he (guard) could be shot if he didn't cooperate, extended in a form of questions," Prestley said.

"As far as disturbing the peace, I think we agreed that, look as a police officer or the commissioner or the head of police, when you interact with someone in the public, there is inherently some disturbing the peace. But it's a legal disturbing the peace…when everybody has become disturbed when approached by a police officer," the chief prosecutor said.

The OAG determined as unfounded the allegations that when human remains were found in the Kagman area, Mafnas told the officers directing traffic to go home, walked over the bones, and told the crime scene technician what to process, and told detectives not to do anything unless he directed them.

The OAG determined as unfounded the allegations that during the search of the missing Luhk sisters, Mafnas refused to share his findings during own interviews because he allegedly didn't trust commanders with confidential information.

The OAG found the allegations as unfounded that Mafnas put the lives of DPS and Fire personnel when he was directing traffic trucks where to park during a fire scene in San Antonio and where to station themselves to contain the fire, and how to direct traffic.

The OAG found as unfounded the allegations that Mafnas denied Fr. Ryan Jimenez's request for a closure of a road for the Station of the Cross procession and stated that the priest didn't know the protocol and that he can conduct the procession on the sidewalk instead.

The OAG also found as unfounded the allegations that Mafnas took a trip to the Philippines with a potential vendor for DPS vehicles without delegating his authority in his absence.

The OAG said Mafnas filled out an application for leave form signed by Fitial, and that it was the governor's role to delegate authority in the commissioners' absence.

"There is no evidence of any wrongdoing during the commissioner's trip to the Philippines with the vendor," the OAG report said.

JAPAN

From Page 1

1945, hastening the end of World War II.

Besides Japanese military officials, there will also be officials from Japan's Ministry of Finance visiting.

These Japanese officials will be escorted by representatives from the Joint Guam Program Office and the U.S. Marine Corps out of Guam.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), in a phone interview, said the Japanese military officials will have a tour of military lands and help assess the area where Japanese forces could train with American soldiers.

Sablan said this is still part of the military buildup in the region.

"But at this time there's still no plan to build a major base on Tinian; only as training site for expeditionary forces," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Japanese media have also been reporting that Japan plans to help shoulder the cost of building a military base on Tinian and that Japan plans to station its own forces on the island.

Sablan received a briefing last week from Joint Guam Program Office Director Joe Ludovici, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, on "new developments in the U.S. military's plans for the Marianas and issues of regional strategy."

They discussed the new National Defense Strategy focus on the Pacific Theater, the Guam buildup, and future use of Tinian for military training purposes.

But Sablan said details of some of what was discussed could not be released.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's office said as of yesterday afternoon, there's no meeting scheduled between the governor and the visiting Japanese officials.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also said the Fitial administration is also awaiting official communication on the Japanese military's plans involving Tinian.

The visiting Japanese military officials, however, are scheduled to meet with other CNMI officials on Tinian, including Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation chaired by Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and the Tinian Municipal Council.

Hofschneider said as of yesterday, he's not privy to the specific plans by the Japanese government on Tinian but he said the island has long been waiting for major military training or activities that will help funnel revenues to Tinian and the CNMI as a whole.

Fitial asked U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in February to renegotiate the existing land lease on Tinian because he said none of Defense's promised developments on Tinian has materialized for 35 years. Fitial has yet to receive a response from Panetta.

The Japanese military officials' visit comes ahead of the arrival of some 200 U.S. Marines from Japan that will be training on Tinian from May to June, the first major military training on the island for at least a decade.

One of the Japanese media reporting on the issue of having a Japanese military station on Tinian is Nikkei news agency, quoting unnamed sources. It reported that no final decision has been reached yet but its sources said Japan would lease a portion of the U.S. Defense-controlled land on Tinian and rotate Japanese military personnel from all three Japan Self-Defense Force branches—ground, sea, and air.

Japanese media also reported that Washington, D.C. is considering Tokyo's proposal to shoulder part of its expenses for the development of a U.S. military base and related facilities on Tinian.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported that "Tokyo apparently made the proposal to fend off Washington's demand that Japan increase its share of the costs of the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. The realignment is currently under review."

Guam poised to lift 17-year ban on betel nuts from CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guam is now poised to lift a 17-year ban on "un-husked" betel nuts from the CNMI in limited quantities and for personal consumption only, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday.

Manglona

Manglona, who has been communicating with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo on the issue, thanked the Guam governor yesterday for a decision to have the restrictions lifted.

With Guam's plan to lift the restrictions, Manglona said the CNMI will be able to import un-husked betel nut of up to 50 pounds into Guam for personal consumption and without penalty or fine.

"The CNMI is also fortunate that with this recent policy change, betel nut in the husk may be imported into Guam for consumption (not planting) in commercial quantities of over 50 lbs with an import permit, an opportunity we have long waited for," Manglona told Calvo in a one-page letter.

Manglona said CNMI farmers, frequent travelers and businessmen were not able to bring "un-husked" betel nuts to Guam for a long time.

Since 1995, Guam banned the importation of un-husked betel nuts from the CNMI because of outbreaks of betel nut disease in the CNMI.

The only ones that have since been allowed for import from the CNMI are cleaned or husked kernels.

Guam, however, will continue to prohibit the entry from the CNMI of betel nut palm tree seedlings, Manglona said.

Manglona said CNMI farmers will be encouraged to further conduct a healthy, clean, and pest-free betel nut trade between the CNMI and Guam.

"As we continue to improve our economy, I am thankful for your time and effort in helping the people of the CNMI and our neighboring island, Guam," Manglona told Calvo.

Bill Hocog, a former senator and who owns some betel nut trees on Rota, said last night that Guam's decision to lift the restrictions on betel nuts from the CNMI is "welcome news."

"It opens up new opportunities for Rota farmers and those from Saipan and Tinian to expand their business and bring betel nuts to Guam. Especially in these economic times, we need to generate revenues. I am thankful for those who made this happen, including Senate President Manglona and Mayor Mendiola," he told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

Hocog and Manglona separately said last night that Guam gets most of its betel nuts from the Federated States of Micronesia, particularly Yap.

Manglona thanked not only the Guam governor but also Guam entomologist Dr. Russell Campbell, Guam Agriculture director Marquita F. Taitague, and CNMI Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios.

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Jr Mock Trial participants get recognition from judge

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All five teams that participated in this year's mock trial for junior high school received accolades and recognition from presiding judge Braddock Huesman who described the students' performances as excellent and impressive.

According to Huesman, who taught seventh and eighth graders prior to practicing law, CNMI junior high school participants appeared Saturday at Guma Hustisia well-rehearsed and ready to play their roles as attorneys and witnesses in a legal case. In comparison to his former middle school students, Huesman said local students appeared way "more advanced" in this field.

NMI Council for the Humanities executive director Scott Russell said there were five school teams in this year's mock trial program each comprised of five members and a few alternates. They included Mount Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy on Rota, Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos Jr. & High School, and two teams from Hopwood Junior High School.

Compared to the high school division, the junior high level used a non-competitive format so there are no winners or losers per se. The judge gives general comments on all teams' work and performances.

For MCS, recognized were members Sung Hun Ryu, You Jin Jun, Arron Christopher Cushing, Jaqueline Doctor, Amalina Delamona Evangelista, and Lance Vince Deleon Guerrero.

Team members from GCA-Rota included Angelly Guiang, Venetia Atalig, Glengela Guiang, Angie Lou Garces, Eddie Boy Cestona, and Gabrielle Gascon.

From Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos Jr. & High School, members who were also recognized were Thomas Manglona II, George Bisala, Catherine Manglona, Raenna Aldabe, Izzamil Camacho, Cleo Cuizon, and Antonette Sabangan.

Members representing Hopwood Junior High included Kimberly Bautista, Janlane Imperial, Mikhail Alcantara, Elaine Enriquez, Eliezha Mendoza, Anathalia David, Patrick Augustin, Angela Aninon, Alexandria Vergara, Jamie Mariano, Marchie Fernandez, and Diana Lopez.

Russell said despite having only a few teams this year, the turnout was good and a big success for the council which reaffirmed its commitment of conducting the traditional program every year. The executive director said more schools will be encouraged to join next year to get a larger pool of participants.

"We're very satisfied with the turnout and I am amazed [on the students' performances]. These kids are really good," he said after the event, citing the confidence demonstrated by students in "arguing" a case before adult-spectators.

Russell said the program, which is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Council of Humanities, is a pilot project that aims to get students involve in humanities.

Hyatt starts own herb garden as part of 'green' efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Next time executive chef Gabriele Colombo's delectable fares would call for basil or lemongrass, he only needs to visit the herbs being grown in the grounds of Hyatt Regency Saipan as part of the hotel's efforts to go green.

The hotel started its herb garden—an idea of Colombo—which features lemon basil, lemongrass, lime basil, spring onion, Thai basil, oregano, sweet basil, and hot pepper.

The herbs and plants were planted in a garden plot measuring by the South Wing area and measuring approximately 600 sq. ft. sometime in January. The garden is maintained by the hotel's eight-member landscaping team led by manager Huang An Ning.

Colombo, who hails from Italy, said every household in the countryside has its own garden which cultivates different kinds of herbs and produce that they can use to prepare their home-cooked dishes.

"We have a lot of available space in the hotel grounds so I asked Ning if we can accommodate our very own herb garden," said Colombo in an interview.

Colombo disclosed that in the past, Hyatt relied on a farmer in Kagman to provide them with fresh herbs for their kitchen needs.

The Kagman farm, the chef said, was also a site to behold for hotel guests whom they bring to the island's biggest village for a chance to see the various fresh herbs.

"But over time, that became a challenge because Kagman is a little bit far," said Colombo.

Landscaping manager Ning, who has been with Hyatt since 1985, said they chose to grow the herbs which are easy to grow.

"Some of the seeds we planted came from employees, while the others we got from Japan and from households on island that grow these herbs," added Ning, who used to work for the Saipan Botanical Garden.

Since starting the herb garden, Ning said hotel guests, particularly the Japanese and Russians, are enjoying it by taking snapshots and getting samples of the actual herbs.

Colombo said these herbs have already been used in their menu preparation at various dining outlets at Hyatt. In fact, these herbs will take the spotlight at Giovanni's and Kili Café & Terrace for a week beginning April 22, Earth Day.

Colombo noted, though, that their very own herbs have limited supply so they are still getting herbs from their suppliers. Ning expressed hope that in the future, they will be able to expand the herb garden and have one type of herb in one area.

"We invite everyone to visit Giovanni's and Kili Café & Terrace for a taste of the herbs which we've grown in our hotel herb garden," said Colombo.

For more information, call 234-1234.

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System upgrade delays issuance of hospital's housing perks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Health Center were disappointed when they failed to receive last Friday the promised one-month payment of their housing allowance.

But Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres assured yesterday that the promised payment will still be provided today, April 24.

The delay in the deposits, he said, was due to the ongoing system upgrade being enforced at the corporation's financial system which affected the transfer of the funds to employees' accounts. He described the cause of delay as purely "technical" and had already been addressed yesterday.

"But surely, it will come out tomorrow [today] because that's the latest information I got from the management. It was delayed due to the upgrading of the system that we are doing at present," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon.

The housing benefit of hospital employees has been delayed for five months since December, which caused the disappointments of many affected personnel.

According to Torres, when the corporation petitioned nonresident employees for contract workers' visa, or CW, their contract still stipulated the aforementioned housing assistance, but with a clause that it will "depend on the availability of funds," which means anytime, it can be terminated at all by their employer.

The chairman said the corporation board and the chief executive officer are expected to make a determination on this benefit in its future meetings.

In a presentation last week, corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed that each month, a total of $134,000 is being paid to housing perks of employees who were hired outside of the Commonwealth. Since the time of the public health department, single employee who was hired from off-island is provided $600 monthly housing allowance while $800 for those with families.

Because of the scarce financial situation of the corporation, which has only $5 million seed money this fiscal year, its management and board are looking into the following options: terminating, suspending, or cutting this benefit by half.

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Couple accuses Rota mayor, municipality of violating settlement agreement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A couple is accusing the Municipality of Rota and Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola of breaching their settlement agreement on their legal dispute pertaining to farming at the Sabana Protected Areas on the island.

Nurul Islam Paeda and Elizabeth Atalig Paeda, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to enforce their settlement agreement.

Quichocho said Mayor Mendiola and the Rota Municipality have breached the settlement agreement and that the court should enforce it.

Quichocho said the mayor and the municipality failed to pay, in full, the settlement amount.

The lawyer said the mayor and the municipality are also unreasonably restricting/limiting the Paeda couple access to their farm in Sabana.

The Paeda couple sued Mendiola and several other government employees for allegedly invading and destroying their crops and plants at the Sabana Protected Areas.

Last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the lawsuit after the parties reached a settlement agreement.

Manglona said the court, however, shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the parties' settlement agreement.

Manglona granted the parties' agreement to dismiss from the case Mayor Mendiola's co-defendants David M. Calvo, Brian M. Mendiola, Harry M. Mendiola, Francisco L. Mesngon, Michael B. Manglona, Benedicto M. San Nicolas, and 10 unnamed defendants.

The judge substituted these co-defendants by the Municipality of Rota.

Manglona said the Municipality of Rota assumes all obligations of the dismissed defendants as set forth in their settlement agreement.

Quichocho is counsel for the Paedas. Atty. Joaquin DLG. Torres is counsel for Mayor Mendiola and co-defendants.

UOG's Upward Bound accepting applicants

University of Guam's Upward Bound college prep program is accepting applications from interested students currently in 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade.

Free academic services are provided during the school year and summer including academic tutoring; college and career prep activities; field trips/ cultural trips; financial aid information; six-week summer program at UOG; self-development workshops; and other benefits.

Students applying must meet eligibility criteria such as: minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; parents/ legal guardians do not have a four-year college degree or come from low-income family; and applicants meet citizenship/resident requirements. Slots are limited.

For Upward Bound applications and other eligibility criteria call (671) 735-2245/1992. Deadline to apply is May 18. ***(UOG)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 24, 2000

Only 3 NMI public schools have ideal class size

In what appears to be an indication of classroom and teacher shortage in the islands, government records disclosed that only three public schools in the Northern Marianas have reached the ideal size of classes at 15 students per section. All three schools are incidentally outside Saipan where majority of the NMI population are concentrated, according to official statistics from the Public School System. Several government and private studies conducted in the mainland United States noted that class size has to be 15 or fewer to have a significant impact on student achievement. This means that only Rota Elementary and Junior High School, Rota High School and Tinian Junior and High School have achieved the most ideal size of an education class.

CDA reduces CPA's loan interest rate

The Commonwealth Ports Authority expects to gain substantial savings from the Commonwealth Development Authority's recent move to reduce 2.5 percent per annum its adjusted loan balance used up for the completion of the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project (SHIP). CDA approved the interest rate reduction upon CPA's request, to take effect retroactively from November 16, 1996 until such time that the outstanding balance is paid in full. Originally at 5 percent, the interest rate reduction dipped to a mere 2.5 percent per annum, compounded quarterly. CPA currently has over $10,186,334.63 adjusted loan balance from the $43 million harbor improvement project.

April 24, 2001

CDA files $103M suit against CUC

The Commonwealth Development Authority has handed over to the court's judgment a long-standing debt, accrued over a 13-year period, that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has allegedly failed to settle with the government-run lending agency. The plaintiff, in a civil court complaint filed yesterday, is seeking to recoup over $103 million from CUC based on three separate loan agreements both autonomous agencies entered into on three isolated occasions. Further, the development authority has demanded to the court that a business entity be appointed to manage the operation of CUC.

USDA warns vs entry of contaminated meats

The United States Department of Agriculture has warned that the foot and mouth epidemic and other infected meat products continue to be a major concern due to lenient quarantine procedures. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and Plant Protection and Quarantine Director Mitchell G. Nelson renewed calls for the CNMI quarantine division to inspect all incoming cargoes especially crates of goods coming from foreign countries. He said the greatest danger in the CNMI is bypassing inspection and according VIP treatment to arriving dignitaries or officials from other countries.

Apr. 24, 2002

'This gov't supports equal employment for all'

Underscoring its commitment to the principles of equal employment, the Babauta administration has directed the creation of an equal employment opportunity organization in each department, activity and autonomous agency within the Executive Branch. Such an organization will be tasked to establish its own equal employment opportunity program and structure that would provide an administrative procedure for settling complaints of employment discrimination, harassment, or coercion. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said this is in line with the intent of the CNMI Equal Employment Opportunity Program, which requires that nondiscrimination be exercised in all government employment practices.

Officials upbeat on Chinese market

The Marianas Visitors Authority will tap the assistance of US embassies in China to promote the Northern Marianas as a premier tropical destination for Chinese travelers. This, as MVA Acting Managing Director Vicky Benavente vowed to reconstruct marketing and promotional funds that will be distributed evenly to all existing and new markets. Following the inaugural flight of the China Southern Air to the Northern Marianas Saturday, the MVA saw the need to reconstruct funding allocation to all key markets-including China. Benavente said the MVA is waiting for the complete resolution of all navigational concerns between the U.S. and China before full-blast promotional activities are undertaken in other major Chinese cities.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

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/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

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CNMI WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2012-2013

On March 23, 2012, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. **The CNMI WIC Program will be implementing the new guidelines effective May 1, 2012.** So please check to see if you now qualify.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

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3	35,317	2,944	1,472	1,359	680
4	42,643	3,554	1,777	1,641	821
5	49,969	4,165	2,083	1,922	961
6	57,295	4,775	2,388	2,204	1,102
7	64,621	5,386	2,693	2,486	1,243
8	71,947	5,996	2,998	2,768	1,384
Each Add'l Member Add	+7,326	+611	+306	+282	+141

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Deception in North Korea: Like father, like son

North Korea's new leader served up a surprise during recent celebrations of his grandfather's 100th birthday. At a massive military parade, Kim Jong Un spoke for 20 minutes in a speech broadcast live across the country. It was a dramatic departure from the habit of his father, whose voice wasn't heard by the populace until he shouted a one-line exhortation into a microphone at a 1992 parade.

But if anyone expected the country's youthful dictator to pursue a new approach, they were disappointed. Kim said his "first, second and third" priorities would be to make the military stronger. In his remarks, he perpetuated the illusion that North Korea was a rising power by proclaiming that military technology was no longer "monopolized by imperialists."

Not mentioned was the country's recent attempt to launch a satellite into orbit, and what that failure suggested about the real state of the North's technological capacity.

Nor did Kim mention that the decision to launch—in defiance of earlier pledges not to test long-range missiles—prompted Washington to terminate plans for a round of food aid to the famine-weakened country.

Before his accession to power, some analysts had wondered whether Kim Jong Un might chart a course to ease North Korea's severe isolation and the poverty of its people.

He was, after all, educated in Switzerland, where he was a fan of NBA star Michael Jordan. But published reports say he was a poor student who spent much of his time playing computer games and basketball.

In the third century, a dying Roman emperor advised his successor to see to the care of the soldiers first, to ensure they would see to the care of the emperor's power. Unfortunately, the young Kim seems determined to do the same, no matter what the cost to those whose sacrifices pay the bill.

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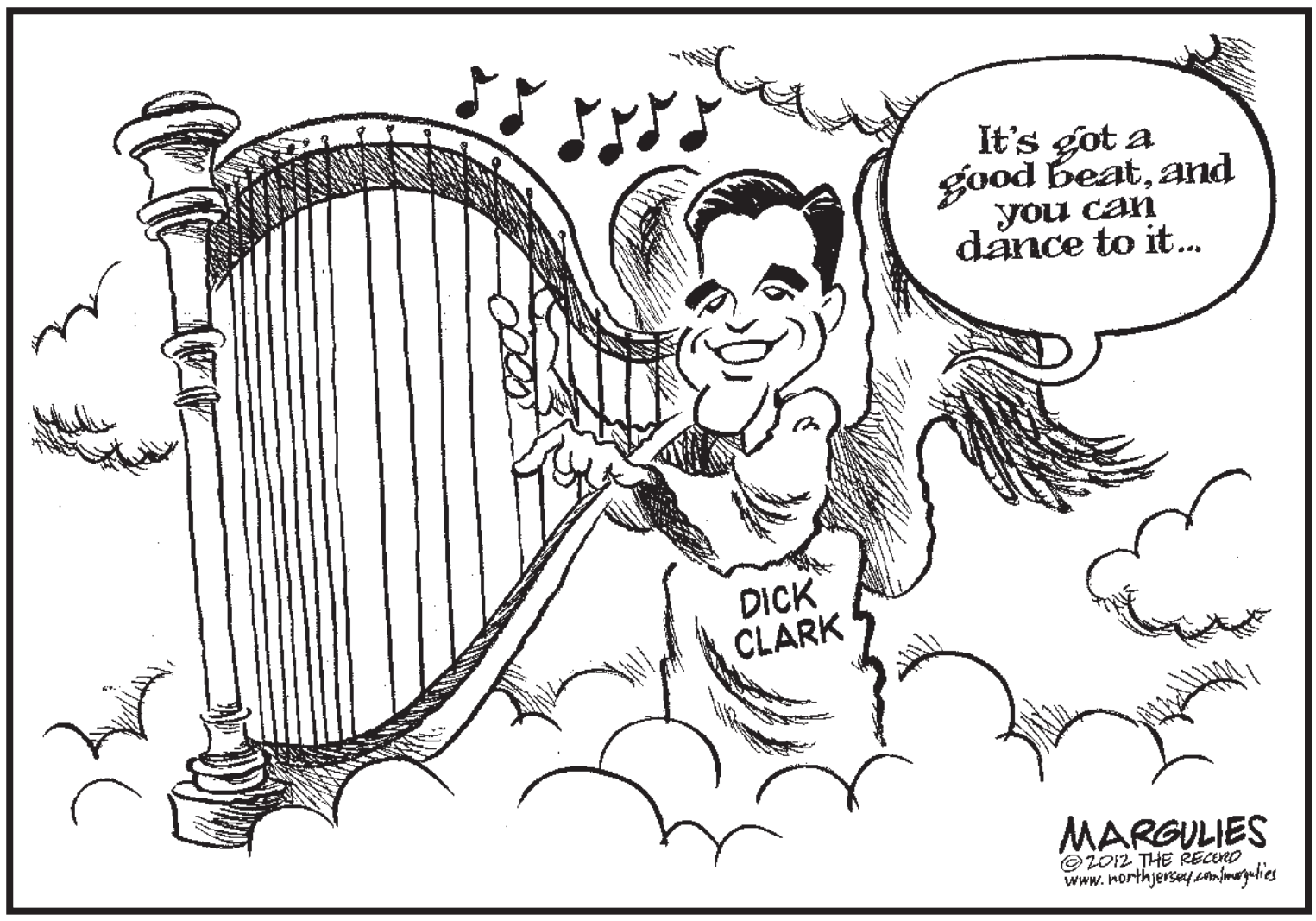


I think I can! I think I can! Yes, I can!

ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Once upon a time there was a little railroad train engine that was employed in a station yard for minor work such as pulling a few cars on and off the switches. One morning it was waiting for the next call when a long train of freight cars was needed to be pulled over an unusually heavy grade before it could reach its destination. The superintendent of the yard was not sure what was best for him to do, so he went up to a large strong engine and asked: "Can you pull that train over the hill?"

"I can't; that is too much a pull for me," said the great engine built for hard work. Then the superintendent asked another engine. "Can't you see I am through with my day's work? Ask someone else." Then he asked another engine only to hear: "I have just come from a long, long run. Don't you see how tired I am? Find someone else."

He heard excuse after excuse and was repeatedly refused. At last in desperation the superintendent asked the little switch engine if he could pull the long train of cars up the hill and down to the other side. "I think I can," puffed the little locomotive and put itself in front of the great heavy train.

As it went on the little engine kept bravely puffing faster and faster, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can." Then as it neared the top of the grade, that had so discouraged the larger engines, it went more slowly, but still kept saying, "I—think—I—can—I—think—I—can—I —think—I—can!"

Higher and higher it climbed, and its voice grew fainter and its words came slower: "I—think—I—can —I—think—I—can." It was almost at the top: "I—think—," It was at the top: "I—can."

It passed over the top of the hill and began crawling down the opposite side. It had reached the top by dint of its brave effort and then went on down the grade, congratulating itself:

"I thought I could, I thought I could. I did it!"

This children's story has always been one of my favorites. But by now you must surely be thinking what has gotten into me for telling you this children's story dating back to 1906. What has this got to do with us and the problems we are facing in the CNMI?

Simply put: To think of hard things and say, "I can't" is sure to mean "Nothing will be done." To refuse to be daunted and insist on saying, "I think I can," is to make sure of being able to triumphantly say by and by, "I thought I could, I thought I could. I did it!"

Daily I see the fear of defeat and depression in the faces of my fellow citizens. I feel their pain. Our economy has sunken to great depths and no one seems to have any really constructive solutions about what to do. Whether I am just naïve or maybe just dumb, I truly believe that "We can! We can!" if we think that we can and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices just like the little engine did.

The following suggestions are made to help us understand that if we want to improve our economy, we must be like the little engine and puff long and hard to make it happen. I am not professing to be a mister-know-it-all, but the following are some ways that we can begin to help ourselves.

ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

But are we willing to puff and puff until we get over the hill? It will take courage and understanding, but we can do it. What is the alternative? Are we waiting for our local government to help us? It is a bankrupt. Are we waiting for the federal government to do it? It has its own immense problems.

I look around and see all the fallow land waiting to be cultivated and bear a bounty of fruits and vegetables. Here we have acres of diamonds yet we refuse to cultivate them. Meanwhile our neighbor Guam continues to import all its needs from the distant United States. For some strange reason we fail to see that being only a minutes away, we can easily fill Guam's food basket.

As I travel over the highways, I see road construction and sewer repairs being undertaken. But I fail to see any local hires. The only employees I notice are non-resident workers. When I visit the hotels and major restaurants, I am greeted and waited on by nonresident workers. This is a typical scene in almost any business. Where are our people? Are they too busy lining up for food stamps?

We have over 11,600 USCW1 workers that have applied for permission to continue working here; meanwhile our unemployment rate stays at a staggering high. Why can't we pass a law and enforce it that the majority of workers in many businesses must be local hires?

Do we need all the public sector employees receiving only 64 hours per pay period when many could be transferred to the private sector to replace the nonresident workers? In the private sector they would receive 80 hours and the remaining public workers would then receive also 80 hours. Is this possible or am I just naïve?

You can surely think of other ways to help ourselves. But have we become so emasculated over the years from receiving entitlements so that now we demand them while scorning hard work? Yes, it will take a lot of huffing and puffing of "I think I can, I think I can." But unless we do, we will remain in the depression we are in.

Here is another little story about self-help. In a certain town, a flood occurred. As the water began to rise higher and higher, one man climbed to a rooftop and pleaded with God to save him. Shortly a power boat came

See I THINK on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dollar'$ downgrade

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The state of the dollar's health is reflected in the story of Dania, the desirable San Andres, Columbia escort who was allegedly propositioned for $800 to join a U.S. Secret Service guy only to be handed $30 at the end. Any decent bikini-clad hard-partying Señorita on the take-and-make Cartagena business would complain, too. And why not? Tacos and enchiladas are not getting any cheaper, and Dania is a single mother with a 9-year-old son.

Our favored Garapan girl would not condescend to do a hand job for that amount of money! (Those snickering, "hand job" is a form of massage that is actually refreshing, if one gets the right touch.) It is really a rapid decline of the value of a currency that used to "Won" you a lot of Kim Chee in the old days around West Gate of the Imperial Palace in Seoul, if one could not fork the dough for the manicured fingers up Walker Hill!

That's neither here nor there but the news in the Cartagena Presidential U.S. Secret Service affair prior to the Summit of the Americas is not the morality involved since even El Mayor del Ciudad de Cartagena declared that the issue is on the commercial value of the beef, after secured Texas-size packages hit the local market needing tender kneading services. Remunerative justice, not ethics, is at the core of the matter!

The real news at the Summit was about BRICS' (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) proposal after its March gathering to create a multi-currency World Bank to supplement the weakening $$$ and the floundering euro. That's the kind of stuff that cannot allay fears with ex-grunt muscle and sophisticated communication kits of Secret Service personnel.

We suggested previously that maybe the U.S. Dollar might have a few more years to reign supreme in the world market as the medium of exchange, with the reputation of EU consigned to the Grecian urn after Athens' economic health rapidly declined.

However, the dynastic and narrowly concentrated American worth and wealth is rather embarrassing for an experiment in political democracy! Distributive justice is the meat, harken America.

Now the BRICS' masa (the combined population of the five countries is about 50 percent of the world's total), are flexing their muscles, displaying a financial growth at 50-plus percent compared to the just over 9 of the G8 nations, and insisting that perhaps, their currency is just as useful as the greenback. India and China even had the 'temerity' to suggest that they can start trading goods with partners using national currencies.

Wall Street, the metaphorical bestiary of the financial universe, in Bill Moyers' colorful characterization, long ago joined in the weakening of the dollar as big commercial concerns influenced legislation to limit and lower corporate taxes in the U.S., while expanding operations in the cheap labor markets and lax tax atmosphere of other places.

Some corporate head honchos even go so far as to oppose legislation requiring predatory companies (those who buy existing business concerns and tear them apart for sale and a tidy profit) to reveal the ratio of CEO pay with those of its own workers. Now the hired help is up in arms and the thawing of spring is sending them out in the streets.

Being "Occupy" is reaching a new level of integrity as a professional occupation in some quarters! Occupiers are bracing for a long hot summer, and with the presidential circus on center stage, the world's digitized microphone and lens is focused on America at a transmittal speed of three seconds on the 4G.

The word on the street, after Dania's bikini fairness hit the web, is that she is only a click away from a Playboy shoot. Good for her. She hails from San Andres, an island closer to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, but flies the Columbian flag and grooms workers in the tourist industry for Cartagena de Indias.

We've been to Bogota once and though we tried to triangulate Jamaica, Guatemala, and Venezuela, we never really set foot on the modern resort of Cartagena, the illustrious ancient Caribbean City that is named after her sister city in Spain; she is sister city as well to our old hangout Manila in the Philippines. It hit the popular imagination in the movie Romancing the Stone.

We saw it in the movie The Mission, the SJ's fictionalized work with the Guaranis up the Iguazu falls separating Brazil and Argentina, filmed in Cartagena. Fans of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's Love in the Time of Cholera will recognize the city as the setting, and more recently, Tom Cruise in the movie Collateral knocked off a drug cartel target in a bar at the city. A busy air and water port, Cartagena has a history more ancient and richly more colorful than that of Louisiana's New Orleans.

It is, thus, proper that in the shadows of its brothels, the decline of the U.S. dollar would find its most symbolic yet radical downgrade. We do not rejoice at this. We only note it as another of those reality factors unfolding in the world stage.

One wit was unkind. "At least, the U.S. Secret Service is not on guard duty over Gaia's economy," she said. Coyly, she delivered the coup d'grace: "They would deceptively conclude all transactions on the cheap!"

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to CUC executive director

Dear Mr. Abe Malae: On Wednesday, April 4, our water system got busted. I called twice a day, my tenant once a day.

Some CUC staff came around to check on Thursday and Friday. The real work of fixing happened on Saturday but the pipe was still leaking at various points. The crew stayed late but the work was not thoroughly done. We thought the crew was coming the following day. We waited on Monday, no one came. I called Mr. Tim Scheidt and said the water is running and is being wasted. I also mentioned that the pipe is badly laid and that it frequently gets busted. He said he knows. Until today Saturday, April 21, no serious work is being done on the pipe and water system.

I am also very concerned of the water leakage being very close to the meters (My home and my tenant's). This might trigger the meters to operate, causing us to pay for the wasted water—water we did not use.

I suggest that the leak be fixed in order to save water running out from the pipe. The pipe laid at Nagao PI should be done properly as well. That the pipe should be laid either at one side of the road and deep enough to stand the impact of the cars/trucks on the road.

Furthermore, the leaks cause the water to run into the road, causing more damage to the already ravaged road, causing serious difficulties in navigating it. There are five places where the leaks are in a span of about 20 meters. There is too much waste. CUC is so fast in billing, sometimes bills customers on non-existing service but is very, very slow in responding to repairs.

The leaking water multiplies our hardship. We need help soonest. Thank you.

Fe Y. Calixterio
As Terlaje, Saipan

One size doesn't fit all

I will never fault Mr. Segundu Castro seeking ministerial assistance from the office of Delegate Gregorio Sablan. One-hundred percent of the people of the NMI should do likewise as that is a principal purpose, but not the most important responsibility, of this office; and I would suspect that no one would be turned away. I do understand also that the Delegate office follows a mandate by representing all its constituents within his jurisdiction. On the other hand, one would also avail the endless sources of the information technology to search for information, and that too may be a better venue as the turn around time may be even seconds than a wait of like 24 hours as Mr. Segundu Castro puts it. So in essence, this too is relative and ones clever use of time and resources than a bother to a congressional office would be a much economical strategy and sensible way to do. But, then again, it all depends on ones intellectual capacity to ascertain what is most favored approach to finding information and sound advice.

Yes, the Delegate office is mandated by protocol and congressional tradition to take care of all its constituents in the respective district. I never said that the Delegate's office was derelict in performing in this manner. What I thought is a minimal part of his responsibility, hence, this aspect of providing services could not have been that significant. I was responding to the Delegate Gregorio Sablan's disclosure challenging the voters of the NMI to produce who is the best delegate to the U.S. Congress. The voters of the NMI consist of indigenous people, and all I said that the indigenous people should take up what Delegate Gregorio Sablan wants the stakeholders to consider this 2012 election. And, agreeable enough this is an important aspect of the election process so that we could have a measurable and intelligent outcome.

When one looks at public service by a congressional office, we could acknowledge this duty and responsibility whether it be by tradition, a party initiative, or even thinking that this is legal and moral duty, all these put together would be relative as well. Think of it this way, and minds like that of Mr. Segundo Castro would be frustrated and disenfranchised because the reality in the games of politics in the U.S. Congress is not for the elementary observer. Do you really think that the bulk of the Jewish member of Congress would have uniformed and uninterrupted representation of all the people in their respective districts including the Palestinian, Iranian, Muslim, and other Arabic ethnicities as their full agenda in Congress? Do you think that the Latino Coalition in congress would have the same agenda in the halls of congress as they stick with their specific agenda of representing their own kind and la rasa? Do you think that the African American Coalition in congress would have a diverted agenda from their specific needs for the African American people in the U.S.? Now, Mr. Castro, you tell me a story that would sustain that Mr. Gregorio Sablan as the delegate to the U.S. Congress is wrong by representing the interest of the indigenous people of the NMI. One size fit all does not have to be the sole game strategy in a directed thinking supposition. Let's discuss why it is a good timing this election year to make the case for a new delegate to the U.S. Congress, and if that shows to be a failure, then we should reconsider returning Mr. Gregorio Sablan at the appropriate time. Again, this idea was suggested by our Delegate to the U.S. Congress. The only question for now, who should be the new Delegate to the U.S. Congress?

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa

I THINK

From Page 10

by and offered to save him. But the man waved it away yelling that God was going to save him.

A few minutes later a helicopter flew close by and waved to the man to climb the ladder it had lowered for him. But again the man waived the helicopter away. The water continued to rise and finally the man drowned.

As he approached heaven he spotted God standing nearby. He yelled to God:" I pleaded to you to save me. Why didn't you do it?" God looked at him and sternly replied: "I sent a powerboat to save you, but you waved it away. Later I sent a helicopter and again you waved it away. What did you want me to do—come down personally and save you?" Aren't we pretty much in the same category? Who are we waiting for to save us?

Forgive me for preaching but it's just that I want our community to exert itself more than it is. We must firmly realize that we have the means within our hands to change our community if we truly wish.

Let me sign off by citing a few memorable quotes: "Diamonds are only chunks of coal that stuck to their job." (Richard Smith)

"Retirement kills more people than hard work." (Malcolm Forbes)

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have if it." (Thomas Jefferson)

Remember a SMILE on your face is worth more than in your pocket. Share your bright SMILE with everyone you meet this week. Let's make it SMILE WEEK!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

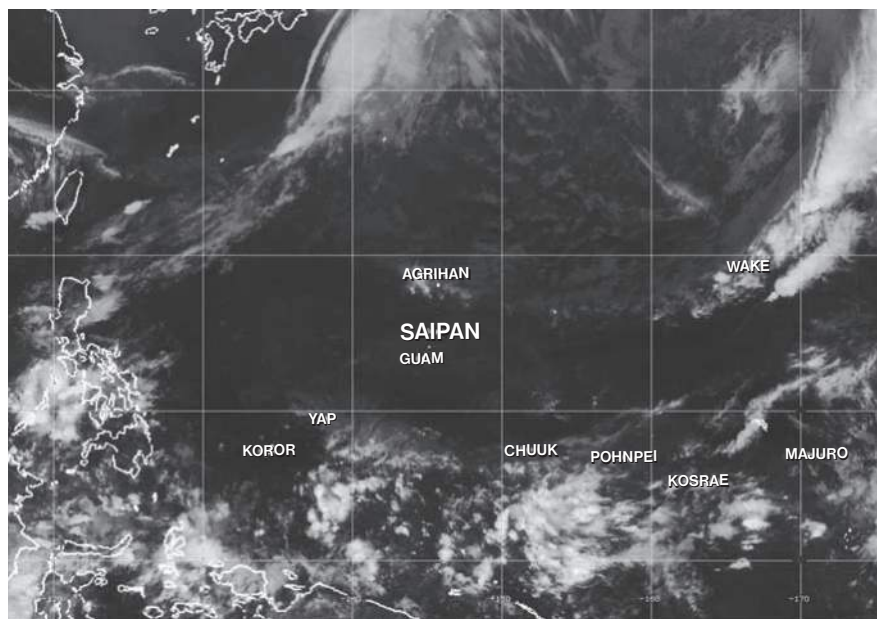
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲91	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲67	▼57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼42
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼74
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼71
London	Showers	▲50	▼43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼48
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼58
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Osaka	Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Paris	Showers	▲55	▼43
Pusan	Showers	▲66	▼56
Rome	Showers	▲68	▼52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Seoul	Showers	▲60	▼51
Tokyo	Showers	▲67	▼56
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from beyond 25N166E to west of Wake Island at 19N159E then curves west-northwestward as a nearly stationary front across the far northern CNMI to end at 21N0140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Wake Island or along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present up to 250 miles north of the stationary front. Convergent trade winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 6N. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro or south of a line from 6N170E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:45 AM	8:58 PM
Wednesday	8:32 AM	9:47 PM
Thursday	9:22 AM	10:36 PM
Friday	10:13 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:05 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Tinian's Hocog named Gates Millennium Scholar

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian High School student Mary Hocog was selected among the Gates Millennium Scholars for next school year after demonstrating excellence in her studies.

As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Hocog is entitled to attend any U.S. located, accredited college or university of her choice. This is a renewable scholarship based on the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program guidelines. The documents she will submit throughout her undergraduate career will guide GMS' review and determination of a new scholarship amount for each year she is eligible.

Hocog

Hocog expressed her excitement and elation on her selection to the prestigious scholarship program. She plans to attend the University of Guam for a year and then transfer to the mainland.

"When I received notification that I got the scholarship, I was thrilled, surprised, overwhelmed with joy, and relieved! The Gates Millennium Scholarship was the only scholarship I applied for and I'm so grateful that I got it. I knew it was really risky to apply for only one scholarship, but I was willing to take the risk. I honestly thought that I wasn't going to get it so I applied to only one school that I could afford, UOG. Now I can apply to other schools and transfer after a year at Guam. I'm ecstatic! I was so worried about finances for school, but all the worries are gone now," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

In addition, if Hocog pursues graduate studies in the fields of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science, she may also be eligible for GMS fellowship funding for her education through the master's and doctoral levels.

According to Joo Young Lee, director of GMS Program in Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Hocog's accomplishments were notable and which were used in determining her selection to the program.

"Congratulations! We are very pleased to inform you of your selection as one of the 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the GMS Class of 2012. We commend you on your strong leadership, community service and academic achievements that contributed to your selection as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Your accomplishment is especially notable in context of the more than 24,000 students who applied, making this year's the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program's history. We are very excited for you to join the community of Gates Scholars and we are very pleased to confer this distinct honor that distinguishes you as a Leader for America's Future," Lee told Hocog in a letter.

Hocog is a senior student and currently serves as the NMI Students' Representative to the State Board of Education and an active member of various school groups and organizations. She is the daughter of Ann Marie Hocog and Gerald Crisostomo. She is a consistent honor student and has attended numerous programs and activities.

DEQ releases advisory for local pesticide users

The Division of Environmental Quality wants the community to be mindful of health and safety regulations when applying pesticides at home, in the garden, or at your farm area.

A pesticide is any substance used to control pests. Pests may be target insects, vegetation, fungi, etc. Most control the pests by poisoning them. Unfortunately, pesticides can be poisonous to humans; some are very poisonous, or toxic, and may seriously injure or even kill humans. Others are relatively non-toxic.

TIPS:

1. Read the label. Follow directions for use, storage and disposal, and personal protective equipment guidelines.
2. Plan your application. Prepare correct amount, not more. Notify others when and where you will be applying.
3. Be Responsible. Do not use more than you need. Do not apply when there is wind or when rain is imminent. ***(DEQ)***

Land for Lease
(40 years)

982 sq.m. Lot#001-D04 & D05
Location: Garapan near Fire Station
$125,000

Contact: 1-213-249-2882 (Mr. White)
235-1555/4343 10am – 4pm

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

- **Beachside, Oleai:** Stand alone professional office / house-office or restaurant bar location along Beach Road, 1,800 sq. ft., with good parking, back up generator and beach access. Asking: $1,200.00/mo.
- **San Jose:** Former SDA Preschool building. Great location. Good condition with fenced yard. Asking: $1,000.00/mo.

HOUSE FOR RENT

- **San Jose House:** 5-bedroom and 2-bathroom house in San Jose. Good location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: $1,000.00/mo.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

- **ANAKS Condominium:** 2 units available. 2-Bedroom, 1 ½-Bathroom. Ocean view. Asking: $900.00/mo. each.

AVAILABLE LAND

- **Vacant land in Tinian:** Available for farming or development. Close to San Jose.
  - i. Lot 031 T 10: 13,118 sq. m., Lot 031 T 11: 13,123 sq. m., Lot 031 T 12: 1,054 sq. m., and Lot 031 T 13: 1,048 sq. m. (4 lots) Asking: $60,000.00
  - ii. Lot 114 T 14: 4,185 sq. m. Asking: $8,000.00
  - iii. Lot 114 T 05: 25,000 sq. m. Asking: $50,000.00
  - iv. Lot 102 T 21: 3,643 sq. m. Asking: $7,500.00
  - v. Lot 118 T 04: 1,190 sq. m. Asking: $5,000.00
- **Vacant land in Capitol Hill:** 4,479 sq. m. available, zoned for residential purposes. Easement not presently open. Asking: $10,000.00
- **Vacant land on San Roque Beachfront:** Ideal for a small single house. Asking: $35,000.00

Alexander
Alexander Realty
Alexander Building, Beach Road San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
For inquiries please contact Alexander Realty at:
234-5117 or e-mail: roy.alexander@saipan.com
Website: www.realtysaipan.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-010

Opening Date: Tuesday, 4/13/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a United States commonwealth adjacent Asia and about three hours south of Tokyo, Japan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Planning, design, construction management, and operations of water and wastewater systems in a marine environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements of federal grants for water and wastewater systems. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**.

SALARY: $60,000 to $90,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

(Plus negotiable relocation costs to and from the NMI if hired from outside the NMI, but not to exceed $15,000 for relocation to the NMI and not to exceed $5,000 for relocation away from the NMI)

POSITION(S): One.

CONTRACT: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Civil (or Environmental), Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in a water or wastewater utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office or the CUC Tinian Office or CUC Rota Office. Failure to provide the required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/235-1251 • Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@pticom.com
Web: http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION	NEED	SALARY RANGE	QUALIFICATION	CLOSING DATE
Elementary School Teacher (5th Grade-self contained including religion)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,400/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Religion/Theology Teacher (7th & 8th Grade Religion & Theology I, II, III, & IV)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field. Applicant must be Catholic.	05/04/12
High School Teacher-Math/Science (Algebra I & II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus & Physics)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Jr. High & High School Teacher-Science (Earth Sci., Gen. Sci., Biology I, AP Biology, Chemistry, Environ. Science)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Jr. High & High School Teacher-Social Studies/Math (US History, Civics, Pre-Algebra)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field.	05/04/12
Computer & Math Teacher (1st to 12th, Digital Arts & General Math)	01	$18,000/annum to $37,990/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.A. in Education or Related Field	05/04/12
Accountant	01	$17,000/annum to $26,395/annum	Graduate from an Accredited College/University with B.S.in Accounting plus 02 years exp. in accounting.	Until Filled

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 08:00 am to 05:00 pm. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net. Required documents that must be attached to complete the application form: (1) official copy of diploma/degree or Official Transcripts; (2) FBI clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed; (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction or residence within the last three (3) months; (4) resume; and (5) teaching certificate. Completed application and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, ATTN: Margaret C. DelaCruz, President, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950. Inquiries can be made by calling (670) 235-1251 or (670) 235-3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

US TRUSTEE SAYS:

Fund's broad request for immunity problematic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United States Trustee asserts that the NMI Retirement Fund's request for a broad injunction essentially granting the Fund and its employees immunity during the course of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition is "problematic."

Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching told the U.S. District Court for the NMI during Friday's hearing that they don't believe it appropriate for the Fund to ask for an order prohibiting unauthorized actions against the Fund's employees and its board during bankruptcy proceedings.

Taking this position, however, does not mean the U.S. Trustee is encouraging frivolous lawsuits that will distract from the important work at hand, hamper the reorganization effort, and further deplete the Fund's limited resources, Ching said.

The U.S. Trustee, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigation to enforce bankruptcy laws.

One of the Fund's counsels, Jeremy Coffey, had asked the court to issue an injunctive relief against all persons from taking any legal action against the Fund's board and its employees during bankruptcy proceedings.

Ching said that rather than an order that emphasizes certain portions of the automatic stay provisions, the Fund should resort to more common methods of notifying parties of the automatic stay in bankruptcy, such as notices of bankruptcy, suggestions of bankruptcy, and informal letters. Ching said the Fund retains its remedies for violations of the stay.

This bankruptcy court, Ching pointed out, can make itself available on short notice if a violation of the stay requires prompt remedial action.

As with other cases under chapters of the Bankruptcy Code, a stay of creditor actions against the Chapter debtor automatically goes into effect when the bankruptcy petition is filed.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris agreed with the U.S. Trustee's position and denied the Fund's motion.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter director Juan Lizama, second left, and executive director John Hirsh, fourth left, presents Transpacific Group of Companies with certificates of appreciation for the group's premier sponsorship of the 26th Annual American Red Cross Walkathon. Transpacific Group vice president Stella T. Fong, third left, leads the companies in accepting the certificates at Transpacific Business Center, Gualo Rai. Joining her are, from left, Leilannie M. Salvani, Saipan group HR and administrative department manager; Virgie Avendano-Woodruff , client services and office manager, Glimpses of Saipan; Emily Z. Alfonso, senior accountant, Subway Restaurants; Lorie Kamminga (back row), director of human resources; Glen D. Hunter, Saipan group business manager; and Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. and Foremost Foods. The Transpacific Group of Companies comprises Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Foremost Foods, Subway Restaurants, Foremost Scoops, Glimpses Publications, and Glimpses Advertising.

Reksid objects to his sentencing tomorrow

Franz B. Reksid, a former Department of Public Lands special assistant to the secretary, is objecting to going ahead with his sentencing today, Tuesday, in federal court.

Reksid, 71, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, said the U.S. Probation Office has not provided the final presentence report with the addendum and comments as required by Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Hanson said that Federal Rules 32(6) requires that the U.S. Probation Office submit to the court and to the parties at least seven days before sentencing the presentence report.

Hanson said the Probation Office filed an initial presentence report with the court and served the parties on March 19, 2012.

The lawyer said that within the extensions of time granted by the Probation Office, both the U.S. government and Reksid submitted to the Probation Office objections to the initial presentence report.

Hanson said he also submitted to the Probation Office comments on the U.S. government's objections to the presentence report.

Hanson said the objections from both the U.S. government and Reksid create a substantial disparity in the proposed final offense level being advocated by the parties and suggested in the initial presentence report.

Reksid was originally scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 25, 2012, after being convicted in September 2011 of bribery after being found guilty of accepting a $3,000 bribe from the owner of a private company that obtained a federally funded contract from the Department of Public Lands. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Calling families of fallen heroes

The CNMI is celebrating Memorial Day on May 28, 2012, 9am at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery. The CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs director will be paying tribute to our fallen heroes and he inviting the immediate families of our fallen heroes to join the community in paying tribute to them. The immediate family is being asked to call the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs office to RSVP. For more information call 664-2650, 2659 or 287-5351. ***(PR)***

Kindergarten registration at SVES

San Vicente Elementary School Registration for school year 2012-2013 is scheduled to begin on May 14-18, 2012 for (Kindergarten) from 9am through 11:30pm in the school main office.

For all kinder: Child must be 5 years on or before Aug. 31, 2012, as per BOE policy. Date of birth must be between Sept. 1, 2006 and Aug. 31, 2007.

Registration requirements: birth certificate, health certificate, health/accident insurance, map of residential location; power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable), copy of report card, and unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended.

For more information, contact the school at 237-3791. ***(PR)***

Kagman High School notices

This is to inform parents and or guardians of Kagman High School students that the SAT10 is to be administered to 9th and 11th grade students the week of April 23 through 27. Kagman High School's goal is to get 95 percent in student attendance on this week so test results will be comprehensive of student achievement this year. Please make sure to send your child to school daily and on time.

Early dismissal for next week Monday, April 23, through Thursday, April 26, 2012. Student dismissal at 1:35pm.

Progress report distribution is set for May 2, 2012, from 3pm to 5pm. Half-day schedule for students. Dismissal at 12:45pm. ***(PR)***

Lost puppy

Lost: A 5-month-old German Shepherd puppy-brown with black spots and wearing a blue collar with dog tag no. 3565.

He answers to Tobang. Last seen around Papago/I-Denni Hill area by Betbena Drive on April 11. The puppy needs his medications. Reward offered by owner. Call 989-8469. ***(PAWS)***

Public library to close of inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed for its annual inventory from April 26 to April 30, 2012. Normal library hours will resume Tuesday, May 03, 2012. Sorry for the inconvenience. ***(PR)***

KagES calendar for April

Kagman Elementary School would like to inform all parents and guardians of the following important events for the month of April:

■ Month of April: Registration for all grades ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-014
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

We accept and handle CW1 deficiencies returned from USCIS

TBK Document Handling Services:
- Notary Public
- Translation (English/Chinese)
- Accounting Service
- Tax Preparation
- Apply for Green card or US Citizen
- Requirements from CNMI Government for Business
- Requirements from USICS

2nd flr. of Dollars Days Garapan - Tel: 233-2288
Across Rainbow Photo Color
Open from (Monday to Friday) 8:00-12:00nn; 1:00pm-5:00pm

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-PD-065 (1-15)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 21, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS/HARDWARES/SOFTWARES TO INCLUDE INSTALLATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ADAM HARDWICKE
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

SIGNATURE DRIVES HOPES TO RAISE $1,440

KKMP launches MMAC radio-thon

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Radio station KKMP, one of the title sponsors for the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer, and its foundation launched a signature campaign aimed at raising awareness regarding childhood cancer.

"Be Bold… Go Bald" seeks to raise at least $1,440 by holding a daily radio-thon on 92.1FM and 1440AM to accept pledges from community members willing to donate funds for the fight against cancer.

"Children struck with cancer are among the bravest human beings on earth," KKMP said in a statement. "They face their bleak futures with faith, love, joy, and most of all hope. They endure many long hours of cancer treatments, tests, nausea, and illness all the while giving comfort and encouragement to their parents, families, and friends."

Once the target amount of $1,440 is reached, KKMP owners Rosemond Blanco Santos and Gary Sword and staffer Gordon Marciano will shave their heads and go bald live on stage at the MMAC event for children battling cancer.

KKMP also encouraged other willing individuals to join them by shaving their heads.

According to KKMP, children undergoing chemotherapy lose their hair and endure curious looks from people, making them feel ashamed to go in public.

There is no need to be ashamed, KKMP said, as they will stand by these children and be bald. "Bald is beautiful."

"We are asking you to stand with us and these kids by donating to team KKMP for MMAC," the station added.

Catherine Attao-Toves, overall chair for the 2012 MMAC Committee, thanked the staff and management of KKMP for their "unique" campaign in support of cancer awareness efforts in the community.

"Their creative campaign is truly appreciated. We encourage our community to join their 'Be Bold… Go Bald' campaign," she said.

To make a pledge for the campaign, call 233-1440 or 483-7693 or email cnmiradio@gmail.com.

Attao-Toves also thanked KKMP for their generous support to this year's event, having donated $3,000 worth of free commercial airtime and in-studio interviews to promote MMAC.

"They will also provide live on-site remote coverage the night of the MMAC as well as medical supplies for cancer patient use," she added, referring to KKMP.

MMAC is the largest cancer fundraising event in the NMI and the signature fundraising activity of the volunteer-led, non-profit organization Commonwealth Cancer Association.

This year's MMAC marks the 10th anniversary of the event slated for April 27 to 28 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

For more information, call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.cca-marianas.org.

NMC English and Math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Test Schedule

- May 14 Monday 9am-4pm Building M
- May 15 Tuesday 9am-6pm Building M
- May 16 Wednesday 9am-4pm Building M
- May 17 Thursday 9am-6pm Building M
- May 18 Friday 9am-2pm Building M
- June 4 Monday 9am-4pm Building M
- June 5 Tuesday 9am-4pm Building M
- June 6 Wednesday 9am-4pm Building M
- June 7 Thursday 9am-4pm Building M
- June 8 Friday 9am-2pm pm Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

- May 17 Thursday 10am-12pm Room D-1
- May 17 Thursday 5pm-7pm Room D-1

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Summer 2012 Extended Session (12 week course) will begin on May 16, 2012 and on June 11, 2012 for the Summer 2012 Regular Session (8 week course).

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am-4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee).

Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department (Building M) to schedule an appointment. There is also a signup sheet for the English placement test in Building M.

"Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. Test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the Math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Summer 2012 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEQ RELEASES 2012 DRAFT WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

The CNMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that the Draft 2012 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report has been made available for public review and comment on DEQ's web page, www.deq.gov.mp.

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the U.S. Clean Water Act (CWA) require that all states, including the CNMI, monitor and assess all waters within the estate and report the results to the public, USEPA, and the U.S. Congress, public review is required and DEQ must address comments received by the public.

DEQ invites the public to review and comment on the 2012 Integrated Report, by submitting written comments in person to the DEQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road (across from the Subway restaurant), by mail, or by e-mail to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. E-mails contain the subject line "2012 IR Comments" or similar. All comments must be received by DEQ no later than April 18, 2012, in order for the comments to be considered by DEQ in preparation of the final Integrated Report. Mailed comments should be addressed to Mr. Frank Rabauliman, Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09),** will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: Project 1 is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and Project 2 is a Design-Build of Restroom I in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ~~10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012~~, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

Date: April 10, 2012

Business

Auditors call for end to Medicare bonus program

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a rebuke to the Obama administration, government auditors are calling for the cancellation of an $8 billion Medicare program that congressional Republicans have criticized as a political ploy.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office says in a report to be released Monday that the $8.3 billion the administration has earmarked for quality bonuses to Medicare Advantage insurance plans would postpone the pain of cuts to the plans under the new health care law. Most of the money would go to plans rated merely average.

The administration is defending the program, saying that without the bonuses many plans wouldn't have an incentive to improve quality.

But Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, says the GAO report suggests that the administration abused its authority, pumping money to the plans to avoid more criticism over unpopular cuts.

Medicare Advantage is a popular private insurance alternative to the traditional health care program for seniors. More than 3,000 private plans serve nearly 12 million beneficiaries, about one-fourth of Medicare recipients. They offer lower out-of-pocket costs, usually in exchange for some limitations on choice.

AP

In this April 18, 2012 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio.

President Barack Obama's health care law trimmed Medicare Advantage to compensate for prior years of overpayments that had allowed the plans to offer attractive benefits—and pocket healthy profits.

Republicans fiercely attacked those cuts during their successful campaign to take control of the House in the 2010 midterm elections. Seniors, a key constituency of swing voters, responded by backing GOP candidates.

After the election, the administration announced what it called a "demonstration program" to test whether a generous bonus program would lead to faster, broader improvements in quality. (The health care overhaul law had already provided a smaller bonus program only for top-rated plans.)

GAO, the investigative agency of Congress, did not address GOP allegations that the bonuses are politically motivated. But, its report found the program highly unusual. It "dwarfs" all other Medicare pilots undertaken in nearly 20 years, the GAO said.

Most of the bonus money is going to plans that receive three to three-and-half stars on Medicare's five-star rating scale, the report said. Available through 2014, the bonuses will soften much of the initial impact of the Medicare Advantage cuts, acting like a temporary reprieve.

Watchdog: Mexican government should probe Wal-Mart

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's federal government should investigate allegations of a vast bribery campaign by top executives of Wal-Mart's Mexican subsidiary to build stores across the country, the head of a watchdog group said Sunday.

Eduardo Bohorquez, director of Transparencia Mexicana, said international conventions obligate Mexico's government to get involved even though only local officials have been linked to the scandal.

"The laws in Mexico and the United States relating to bribery are in effect, so the practices (of legal business) should be the same in both countries," he said.

Government officials declined on Sunday to comment on the allegations contained in a New York Times report that said Wal-Mart Stores Inc. failed to notify law enforcement after its own investigators found evidence that millions of dollars in bribes had been paid in Mexico to spur the company's rapid expansion there.

In 2004, activist groups unsuccessfully sought to block Wal-Mart from building one of its discount Bodega Aurrera stores near the Teotihuacan pyramid site outside Mexico City, and one of the protest leaders charged Sunday that the permit process was rigged.

"Wal-Mart started building without permits, the licenses came later," said Emma Ortega Moreno of the Civic Front for the Defense of the Teotihuacan Valley. "When there are banknotes, you know that they can work wonders. It's said that magicians don't exist, but in that sense, yes, there are magicians."

A lawyer for Wal-Mart de Mexico, Juan Manuel Torres Landa, said the company had no comment on any of the allegations.

Jose Luis Manjarrez, spokesman for the federal Attorney General's Office, said the agency had conducted no investigations on such matters and had no other comment.

One of every five Wal-Mart stores now is in Mexico and it is the country's largest private employer, with 209,000 employees.

Egypt terminates gas deal with Israel

CAIRO (AP)—The head of the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company said Sunday it has terminated its contract to ship gas to Israel because of violations of contractual obligations, a decision Israel said overshadows the peace agreement between the two countries.

The 2005 natural gas deal has become a symbol of tensions between Israel and Egypt since the uprising. For many Egyptians, it typifies the close relations the regime of deposed President Hosni Mubarak forged with Israel and how his associates benefited greatly from such business deals.

Critics charge that Israel got the gas at below-market prices and that Mubarak cronies skimmed millions of dollars off the proceeds, costing Egypt millions of dollars in lost revenue.

Egyptian militants have blown up the gas pipeline to Israel 14 times since the uprising more than a year ago.

Israel insists it is paying a fair price for the gas.

Mohamed Shoeb, the head of the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company, said the decision to cancel the deal was not political.

"This has nothing to do with anything outside of the commercial relations," Shoeb told The Associated Press.

He said Israel has not paid for its gas in four months. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor denied that.

Nation

George Zimmerman released from Fla. jail

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—George Zimmerman was released around midnight Sunday from a county jail on $150,000 bail as he awaits his second-degree murder trial for fatally shooting Trayvon Martin.

The neighborhood watch volunteer was wearing a brown jacket and blue jeans and carrying a paper bag. He met a man in a white vehicle and drove away. His ultimate destination is being kept secret for his safety and it could be outside Florida.

Circuit Judge Kenneth Lester said at a hearing Friday he cannot have any guns and must observe a 7 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew. Zimmerman also surrendered his passport.

Zimmerman had to put up 10 percent, or $15,000, to make bail. His father had indicated he might take out a second mortgage.

Zimmerman worked at a mortgage risk-management company at the time of the shooting and his wife is in nursing school. A website was set up to collect donations for Zimmerman's defense fund. It is unclear how much has been raised.

Bail is not unheard of in second-degree murder cases, and legal experts had predicted it would be granted for Zimmerman because of his ties to the community, because he turned himself in after he was charged last week, and because he has never been convicted of a serious crime.

Prosecutors had asked for $1 million bail, citing two previous scrapes Zimmerman had with the law, neither of which resulted in charges. In 2005, he had to take anger management courses after he was accused of attacking an undercover officer who was trying to arrest Zimmerman's friend. In another incident, a girlfriend accused him of attacking her.

Zimmerman, 28, fatally shot Martin, 17, Feb. 26 inside the gated community where Zimmerman lived during an altercation. Martin was unarmed and was walking back to the home of his father's fiancée when Zimmerman saw him, called 911 and began following him. A fight broke out—investigators say it is unknown who started it.

Zimmerman says Martin, who was visiting from Miami, attacked him and he shot in self-defense, citing Florida's "stand your ground" law, which gives broad legal protection to anyone who says they used deadly force because they feared death or great bodily harm.

Zimmerman was not charged for over six weeks, sparking national protests led by Martin's parents, civil rights groups and the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. Martin was black; Zimmerman's father is white and his mother is from Peru.

Romney assails Obama ahead of event with Rubio

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney insisted Sunday that Democrat Barack Obama is a "president who is dividing America" as he kicked off a two-day campaign swing that will feature Marco Rubio, the Cuban-American Florida senator considered as a top potential choice for vice president.

"The road we're on has a president who has to recognize that he's failed," Romney told the crowd of about 200 at a Lincoln Day dinner that was scheduled before former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum dropped out of the presidential race. Pennsylvania's primary is being held Tuesday, though now the former Massachusetts governor has no serious opposition.

"This president has a road that he's traveling down where government gets larger and larger and metastasizes into every area of American life," Romney said. "If I'm president, we're not going to go down that road anymore."

Romney was riffing on words from Obama strategist David Axelrod, who last week characterized the upcoming presidential election as a choice between new policies to help the economy grow and "an economy that continues down the road we are on, where a fewer and fewer number of people do very well."

Even with Santorum out, Romney plans to keep a campaign schedule in Pennsylvania, with stops near Pittsburgh and Philadelphia on Monday.

Rubio, who dismissed talk about potentially joining the ticket during a Sunday interview, is set to campaign with Romney on Monday in Aston, Pa. He'll be the first on the still-long list of possible running mates to campaign with Romney since Santorum dropped out earlier this month.

Rubio refused Sunday to speculate about becoming Romney's vice presidential pick, saying that until recently the discussion has been theoretical. But now that Romney's path is clear, Rubio says, "It'd be wise for all Republicans to kind of respect that process, myself included."

A Romney spokesman refused to comment on whether Rubio's comments indicated that the Florida senator has already been included in that process.

Rubio said Sunday that Romney made good decisions in his business and political career and "he's going to make a great choice" for a running mate.

ACROSS THE NATION

More firings expected in Secret Service scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of a House committee investigating an alleged Secret Service prostitution scandal predicted more firings as key lawmakers and a top adviser to President Barack Obama expressed confidence Sunday that the agency will effectively deal with the incident. "Every possible lead is being examined," said Rep. Peter King, who heads the House Homeland Security Committee. King, R-N.Y., said he expected that in the "near future, several other" members of the Secret Service will leave. "What they were thinking is beyond me," King told NBC's "Meet the Press." So far, the scandal includes 12 Secret Service employees and 11 military members.

Suspicion over 'entry point' in Tucson girl search

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Investigators found "suspicious circumstances around a possible entry point" at the home of a 6-year-old Arizona girl whose disappearance has prompted a massive search, with more than 150 law enforcement officers trying to figure out whether she was abducted, a police spokeswoman said Sunday. Tucson police Sgt. Maria Hawke wouldn't comment Sunday on whether the entry point was a bedroom window or a door. But family friend Mary Littlehorn said she heard from others close to the family that a window screen in the girl's bedroom had been knocked down. The parents of first-grader Isabel Mercedes Celis have said they last saw her in her bedroom at 11 p.m. Friday, according to Hawke. She was discovered missing at about 8 a.m. Saturday, and the parents phoned 911 minutes later.

Asia

Suu Kyi party refuses Myanmar seats over oath row

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and the rest of her party's newly elected lawmakers will not attend Monday's opening session of parliament because they object to wording in their oath of office which says they must "safeguard" the constitution, party officials said.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party wants to see the constitution changed because it enshrines military power and came into force in 2008 during an era of iron-fisted army rule.

The absence from parliament of Suu Kyi and 42 other elected lawmakers who won historic April 1 by-elections was expected. The party had already said it would not attend the assembly session until the issue is resolved.

Suu Kyi's party wants phrasing in the lawmakers' oath changed from "safeguard the constitution" to "respect the constitution."

Opposition lawmaker Ohn Kyaing confirmed the opposition's refusal to attend. But he said Sunday he believed the issue would be overcome quickly because there was support within President Thein Sein's administration to change the oath.

AP

Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, leaves her National League for Democracy party after a meeting at the party's headquarters Friday, April 20, 2012, in Yangon, Myanmar.

Party officials have played down the problem, saying they still expect the lawmakers to attend the assembly, possibly this week or next.

The oath is in an appendix to the constitution, and it is unclear whether it can be changed without the approval of 75 percent of parliament.

The constitution automatically allocates 25 percent of the parliamentary seats to unelected representatives of the military, and Suu Kyi's party maintains that is undemocratic.

The document also bars people from the nation's presidency if they or any of their relatives are foreign citizens; that effectively prevents Suu Kyi from ascending to the presidency because she married a British national, Michael Aris, who died in 1999, and their two children were born abroad and do not live in Myanmar.

Vietnam hosts naval exchange with US Navy

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam kicked off a weeklong naval exchange Monday with the U.S. Navy amid percolating tensions in the South China Sea with China.

Three ships from the U.S. 7th Fleet visited Danang during the five-day event that began Monday. No live-fire drills were planned, but the two sides were expected to practice salvage and disaster training as they have done in recent years.

Vietnam, China, the Philippines and other nations have competing claims to islands in the South China Sea, which is believed rich in oil and gas deposits. Many view the sea as a potential flash point of armed conflict.

Tensions have flared this month near a shoal north of the disputed Spratly Islands where two Chinese maritime surveillance ships blocked a Philippine warship from arresting Chinese fishermen on April 10. Chinese and Philippine vessels continued to face off at the shoal on Monday, each waiting for the other to pull out.

Earlier this month, five Vietnamese Buddhist monks traveled to the Spratlys to teach Buddhism and defend their nation's territorial claim.

Tensions between Vietnam and China hit a low point last summer after Hanoi accused Beijing of interfering with its maritime oil exploration activities. Beijing denied the charge.

The last major clash in the sea involved China and Vietnam and left more than 70 Vietnamese sailors dead in 1988.

Beijing has named the South China Sea one of its "core interests," meaning it could potentially go to war to protect it. The U.S. has said it has a national interest in ensuring freedom of navigation in the sea, and analysts say Washington is expanding its military presence in Asia to counter China's rising influence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea military warns of 'special actions' soon

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea's military says it will launch "special actions" soon meant to wipe out conservative South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's administration. The army statement carried by state media Monday said the actions will last 3 to 4 minutes and be carried out "by unprecedented peculiar means and methods of our own style." It gave no more details. North Korea has issued a steady stream of harsh criticism against Lee and his government. Pyongyang says Lee insulted the North's recent celebrations of the birth centennial of national founder Kim Il Sung.

Bangladeshi police clash with striking protesters

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at stone-throwing opposition supporters enforcing a strike Sunday to protest a politician's disappearance, leaving dozens injured, police said. The clashes happened in the northeastern city of Sylhet, the hometown of Elias Ali, who heads the local branch of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and who went missing on Tuesday. His party has blamed security agencies and the government for his disappearance, and an 18-party opposition alliance enforced a daylong nationwide strike to pressure the government to find him. The government has denied their claim, accusing his party of hiding him in order to create anarchy in the country.

Boy's soccer ball lost in tsunami, found in Alaska

TOKYO (AP)—Good thing Misaki Murakami's name was on his soccer ball. It was lost in last year's tsunami in Japan but has been found across the Pacific on a remote Alaskan island. Kyodo News agency says the 16-year-old from the devastated town of Rikuzentakata is surprised and thankful that the ball has been found. Officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration say the ball is one of the first pieces of debris that can be traced back to Japan after the March 11 tsunami. David Baxter, who spotted the ball on Middleton Island, says his Japanese wife, Yumi, talked with Murakami over the phone. They plan to send the ball back to the boy soon.

World

Hollande, Sarkozy heading to French vote runoff

PARIS (AP)—Francois Hollande, a mild-mannered French Socialist who wants to take better care of the jobless and the poor, is heading to a presidential runoff election against tough-on-immigration Nicolas Sarkozy in a vote that could alter Europe's political and economic landscape.

Hollande heads into the May 6 second round with the upper hand after narrowly edging the conservative Sarkozy in the first round of France's voting Sunday, according to near-complete official results.

In the campaign's biggest surprise, nearly one in five voters chose far right candidate Marine Le Pen instead, handing her a solid third place and a chance to weigh in on French politics with her anti-immigration platform that targets France's millions of Muslims.

With 93 percent of the vote counted, Hollande had 28.4 percent of the ballots cast and Sarkozy 27 percent, according to figures released by the Interior Ministry.

Le Pen was in third with 18.3 percent of the vote so far, the best showing ever by the far right National Front party founded by her father Jean-Marie Le Pen. In fourth place was leftist firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon with 11 percent, followed by centrist Francois Bayrou with 9.1 percent and five other candidates with minimal support.

Turnout was also surprisingly high, at more than 80 percent, despite concern that a campaign focusing on nostalgia for a more protected past would fail to inspire voters.

Hollande, a 57-year-old who has worried financial markets with his pledges to boost government spending, vowed Sunday night to cut France's huge debts, boost growth and unite the French after Sarkozy's divisive first term.

"Tonight I become the candidate of all the forces who want to turn one page and turn over another," Hollande, displaying a confidence and stately air he has often lacked during the campaign, told an exuberant crowd in his political fiefdom of Tulle in central France.

Sarkozy, speaking at his campaign headquarters on Paris' Left Bank, said he recognized voters' concerns about jobs and immigration, and "the concern of our compatriots to preserve their way of life."

Ten candidates faced off for Sunday's first round of voting, a referendum on Sarkozy at a time when many French voters are worried about high joblessness and weak economic prospects and the president is seen as too cozy with the rich.

Syria hotspot enjoys lull with UN monitors present

BEIRUT (AP)—The deployment of U.N. truce monitors brought a lull in shelling of the Syrian opposition stronghold of Homs for a second day Sunday while President Bashar Assad's troops kept up heavy attacks on other areas where observers were not present.

International envoy Kofi Annan expressed hope that despite continued violations of the cease-fire he brokered, an expanded team of up to 300 observers—up from eight now on the ground—can help end 13 months of violence and lead to talks between Assad and the opposition.

Assad has used heavy weapons to try to crush the uprising against him, prompting some of his opponents to switch from peaceful protests to attacks on soldiers. The violence has left more than 9,000 people dead, according to the U.N. At least 12 civilians and five soldiers were killed Sunday, activists and state media said.

The U.N. Security Council approved on Saturday a larger observer mission than the 250 initially envisioned. The mission was set for at least 90 days, but the Council left it up to U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon to decide when it will be safe enough to deploy it.

It will be the first time the U.N. has sent an unarmed mission into a conflict zone, and Western diplomats warned the team will likely fail unless the Assad regime complies with the cease-fire.

The Syrian opposition and its Western supporters suspect the regime is largely paying lip service to Annan's truce plan, in part to appease allies Russia and China while trying to dodge truce provisions that could threaten its grip, such as pulling tanks and troops from towns and allowing peaceful protests. The Syrian government hasn't complied with those terms, prompting bitter complaints from the U.N. chief last week.

Some Syrian activists were skeptical about the U.N. mission, based on the performance of the advance team that arrived last week.

As killer gloats in court, Norway shows no anger

OSLO, Norway (AP)—You would have forgiven Norwegians for showing more outrage against confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik.

When he walks in to court flashing a right-wing salute. When he testifies effortlessly about killing their children, brothers and sisters as if they were flies. When he calls his teenage victims traitors who deserved to die for their political views.

The subdued atmosphere during the trial of a right-wing fanatic who confessed to slaughtering 77 people on July 22 reflects Norway's almost self-punishing efforts to avoid feelings of vengeance against the unrepentant gunman.

"This is the Norwegian way," said Trond Henry Blattmann, whose 17-year-old son was among the 69 people killed in Breivik's shooting massacre on Utoya island. "We need to carry this out in a dignified manner. If people were shouting and screaming this would be a circus and not a trial. We don't want it to be a circus."

Like other Scandinavians, Norwegians are not prone to express their emotions out loud. But the good behavior of the crowd inside courtroom 250 has surprised even some local observers.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen, a professor of social anthropology at Oslo University, said that by treating the trial with "respect and decency," Norwegians are showing defiance against Breivik by standing up for values at the core of their national identity.

When he called Breivik "pudgy" in Norwegian media before the trial, Eriksen said some people took offense.

"I received mail from people who said 'you shouldn't say that about his appearance. He has a mother. We have to treat him with respect.'"

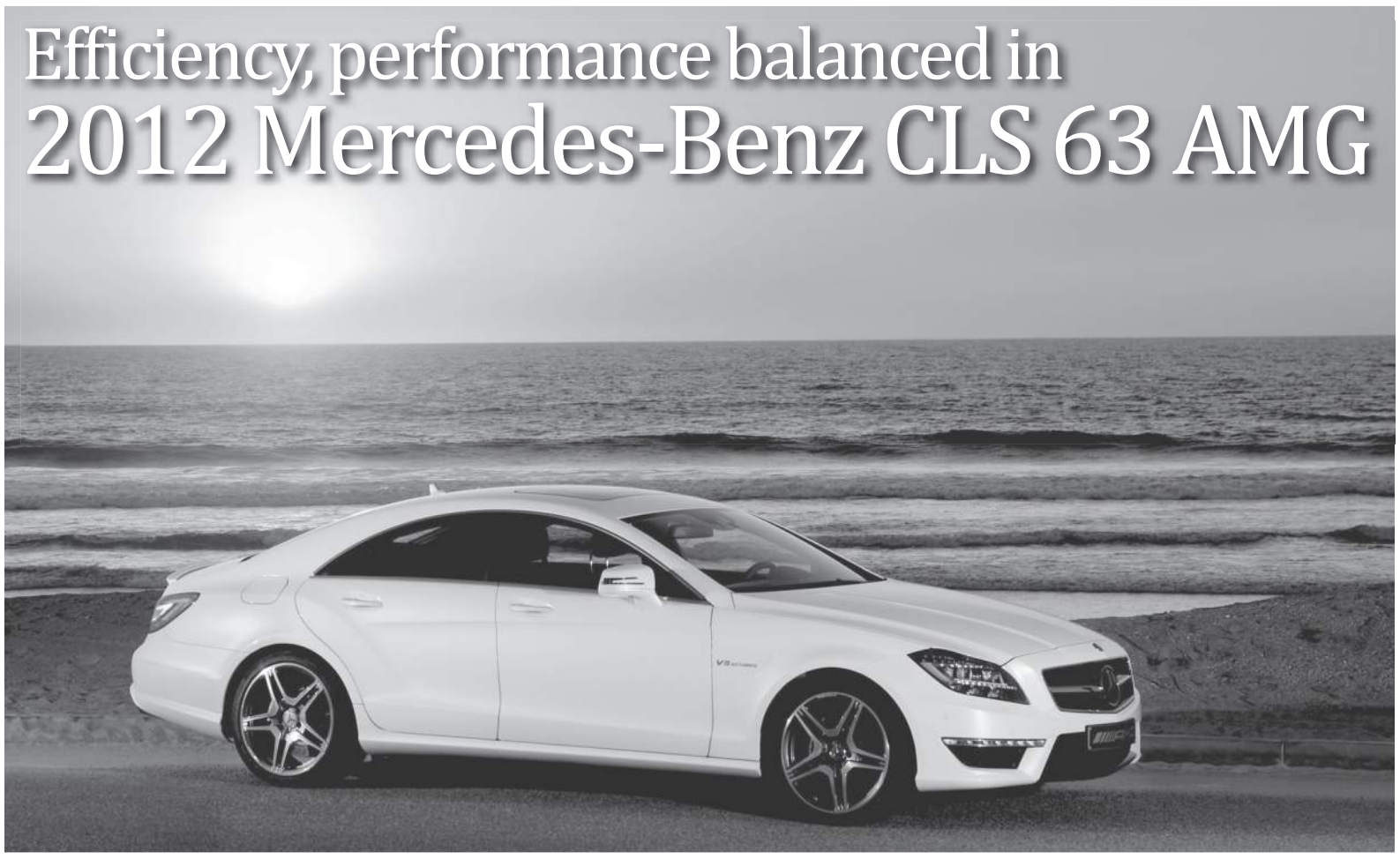
Breivik has admitted setting off a car bomb outside the government headquarters, killing eight, before unleashing a shooting massacre at the governing Labor Party's youth camp on Utoya.

But he denies criminal guilt and rejects the authority of the court, saying it is a vehicle of a "multiculturalist" conspiracy to destroy Norway.

His testimony, which is set to end Monday, has been horrific. A hushed courtroom heard his macabre account of point-blank executions of shell-shocked youth on Utoya. The bereaved embraced and sobbed, but they let him finish, holding back the urge to scream out in agony.

Overdrive

Efficiency, performance balanced in 2012 Mercedes-Benz CLS 63 AMG



The 2012 Mercedes CLS 63 AMG offers efficiency and performance in a breathtaking package. MCT

By SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When it comes to luxury sport cars, efficiency and performance have been terminally at odds. Twinning the two ideas is akin to pulling together the polarized ends of a magnet. But with its CLS 63 AMG for 2012, Mercedes-Benz has, mein Gott, done it.

Not only has Mercedes' luxury performance car division increased the fuel economy an astounding 32 percent over the previous version of this svelte, 7-year-old model. (Now, it gets 16 miles per gallon in the city and 21 mpg on the highway.) But the carmarker has also increased its horsepower and torque 2 percent and 11 percent respectively, making the heart-pounding performance of this four-door coupe all the more breathtaking.

It's with "Wizard of Oz" sleight of hand that Mercedes' AMG has pulled this off. Due in June at a price of about $100,000, the new CLS was available for previews last week. That is to say, finished samplers were prepped and readied to chase lesser vehicles off the road.

On a drive through the winding hills of San Diego's outskirts, its fuel-economy gains were covert—virtually undetectable behind the wheel.

Most of the improvements to this high performer come from stealthy under-the-hood technologies that enabled the monstrous 6.2-liter engine of its predecessor to shrink to a slightly less monstrous 5.5-liter. In its overhaul, the V-8 is equipped with twin turbochargers.

More significantly, it is enhanced with a new fuel injection system that sprays as many as five short bursts of fuel into each cylinder with each combustion cycle, instead of the usual single spurt. In development for three years, these so-called piezo injectors create faster, more fuel-efficient combustion.

These technologically complicated but significant gains are enhanced with a new multiclutch transmission that, as in many modern performance cars, allows drivers to choose between multiple drive modes.

Turning over the ignition, the car defaults to Controlled mode, which actually shuts down the engine to save fuel when the car comes to a complete stop and automatically restarts it as soon as the brake pedal is released.

It's an unsettling feeling at first to come to a stop and hear the car die. But that sensation is quickly negated when the brake pedal is released and the roar of the quadruple exhaust kicks in, indicating the car is not only alive but ready to roll over whatever has the misfortune of getting in its way.

A technology that could have been dreamed up by an engineer stuck on Interstate 10 during Los Angeles rush hour, this stop/start technology can improve fuel efficiency by as much as 10 percent in thick traffic, exactly the opposite of a traditional car that burns through gas in the push-me-pull-you of constant speed-ups and slow-downs.

While the power delivery in Controlled mode feels bridled, it does respond to how the car is being driven. Someone who steps on the gas gingerly will be rewarded with quick and virtually unnoticeable upshifts through its seven-speed automatic transmission. The car settles into its top gear at speeds as low as 30 mph to save gas. More dynamic driving raises the rpms at which the car upshifts, as does each clockwise twist of the drive-mode selector.

Clicking the knurled knob progressively increases the car's aggressiveness, from rocket-launcher Sport mode to Sport Plus—an even more responsive setting that is AMG's version of the "11" amplifier setting in "Spinal Tap."

What's so wonderful about this car is that the effects of its brute power are so refined. Like any sports car priced at six figures it inspires drivers to careen through corners at speeds that press against the limits of their abilities. Even better, it's more than capable of holding a line and keeping the car planted.

I have never felt a car steer as precisely or hug the road as effortlessly as this one, outfitted as it is with steel suspension struts on the front axle, air-suspension in the rear and insanely fast electronic damping. There wasn't an iota of body roll detectable.

As I swung through corners at speeds I'd normally dare only on a motorcycle, electronic bolsters curled in on the sides of the leather seats, as if God himself were reaching into the cabin, keeping me upright. In fact, the seats were more cupping than the cup holders in this car. While the water bottles toppled from side to side, I was propped up schoolmarm-straight when turning.

The model I tested was outfitted with an $8,500 performance package that ekes even more horsepower and torque from its power plant: 550 horses and 590 pound-feet, respectively.

It was also upgraded with lightweight ceramic brakes that increase braking force by transferring heat away from the calipers that put the big squeeze on the rotors for its 19-inch alloy wheels. The extra $12,500 is a bit spendy, but it's an upgrade that makes the stopping power so instantaneous and forceful that it felt like I was giving myself the Heimlich maneuver.

No barf bag was required upon stopping. Just some deep breathing as the wind rushed out of my lungs, making me feel lightheaded.

There's a lot more to be lightheaded about with this new CLS. The smell of tanned leather permeates a well-appointed cabin detailed with carbon fiber on the dashboard and door panels and suede along its roof and steering wheel grips. If this car were a coat, I'd want to wear it.

Alas, it is merely a car. But it is a car that captivates both the heart and the mind, catering to passions with underpinnings of practicality.

NUTS&BOLTS

Base price: Not yet announced (estimated $100,000-plus)
Powertrain: Spray-guided direct fuel injection with piezo injectors; 5.5-liter bi-turbocharged V-8; four valves per cylinder; seven-speed automatic with speed shift
Horsepower: 550 at 5,750 rpm
Torque: 590 pound-feet at 2,000-4,500 rpm
Wheelbase: 113.2 inches
Overall length: 196.7 inches
Curb weight: 4,123 pounds
Top speed: 186 mph
0-60: 4.3 seconds
EPA fuel economy: 16 mpg city/21 mpg highway
Final thoughts: Glorious performance

Under The Hood: Murky trouble code points to ignition coil

BY BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I'm having motor problems with my Chrysler PT Cruiser. Awhile ago, my check engine light kept coming on so I had a mechanic put it on a computer. It named the No. 2 spark plug as the problem. I had the mechanic install all new spark plugs and wires, and still the engine light was on. We even tried just switching them around to see what it would say—and again, No. 2 spark plug.

Then he thought that it might be the coil, so we replaced that and still no results. If anything, now the car rides worse. When I come to a red light or stop sign, it shudders as if it wants to stall, and the check engine light dings and flashes.

What's going on? What else would alert us to a No. 2 spark plug? Are PT Cruisers known for this trouble? I hate doing this trial-and-error stuff—besides the cost, the car seems worse every day.

—Walter Bartlebaugh

ANSWER: Walter, I'm a little fuzzy on the exact diagnostic trouble code your technician has retrieved. Could this be P0302 (cylinder 2 misfire detected) or P2303 (ignition coil No. 2, secondary circuit, insufficient ionization)?

Here's the difference: P0302 means cylinder 2 is misfiring more than 1 percent of the time during two consecutive vehicle trips or more severely during a single trip. The cause could be a mechanical, fuel, or ignition fault. Mechanical faults include leaky valves, valve train faults and, in rare cases, piston or piston ring problems. Fuel faults peculiar to cylinder 2 include a dirty or erratic fuel injector, a vacuum leak, and injector circuit faults—that is, engine computer or wiring.

In addition to a likely misfire code, an ignition fault may also set code P2303, which means the No. 2 ignition coil's spark burn time, or duration, is incorrect or not present. I think this may be the code you are referring to. If so, the onboard diagnostic system has done a great job narrowing the search area for you. P2303 could be caused by a faulty spark plug, spark plug wire, ignition coil, or coil circuit fault—again, engine computer or wiring. Irregular spark burn time could also be caused by a cylinder mechanical or fuel problem.

Your PT Cruiser employs a waste spark ignition system. This means two ignition coils, both contained within a single assembly, provide spark for the four cylinders. Coil No. 1 fires cylinders 1 and 4, and Coil No. 2 fires cylinders 2 and 3. Since the No. 2 coil fires two cylinders, the problem could reside within either of the two cylinders, or with the coil or coil control circuit, causing misfiring in both cylinders.

I'd begin by double-checking the diagnostic trouble code. Is there a cylinder-specific misfire code? Next is a cylinder balance test, which determines power contribution of each cylinder; a compression test, which looks for mechanical faults; an injector balance test to check injector flow rates; and careful observation of the No. 2 coil control circuit, using an oscilloscope or graphing multimeter to verify correct and consistent electrical signals sent by the engine computer to the coil. I'd also take a close look at the fuel injector circuit commands for cylinders 2 and 3.

This is an intriguing problem. If you weren't 2,700 miles away, I'd be tempted to drive to your house to check this out. Try to get this fixed as soon as possible, as misfiring causes massive exhaust emissions and will damage your catalytic converter.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Murdoch to be quizzed on his UK political sway

LONDON (AP)—He was long considered one of the most important power brokers in British politics. Now, with his influence shriveled by Britain's phone hacking scandal, media mogul Rupert Murdoch is returning to the U.K. to face questions about his ties to the country's most senior politicians.

It could be an uncomfortable few days for Britain's ruling class.

Murdoch is "not somebody you'd like to get into a battle with," said Steve Fielding, the director of the Center for British Politics at the University Nottingham. "I don't think he thinks that he has very much to lose."

Rupert Murdoch's appearance before Lord Justice Brian Leveson's inquiry this week is expected to focus on the network of personal and professional ties that have bound his newspaper and television operations to some of the most senior politicians in the United Kingdom.

Those ties have frequently come under criticism, with many observers saying British politicians were scared of crossing Murdoch because of his company's domination of the British media landscape.

Murdoch's papers account for a third of the national daily newspaper market and more than 40 percent of the national Sunday market. The top-selling The Sun tabloid is particularly influential and famously claimed credit for swinging the 1992 election in the Conservative Party's favor. Murdoch's sway extends to TV, where his Sky News channel was key in prompting Britain's first-ever U.S.-style prime ministerial debates.

The Australian's relationship with British leaders blossomed in the 1980s, when Margaret Thatcher's government rubber-stamped Murdoch's bid for The Times of London following a secret meeting at the prime minister's country retreat.

It strengthened in the 1990s and 2000s, when Murdoch was assiduously courted by Prime Minister Tony Blair. Current Prime Minister David Cameron, meanwhile, drafted former Murdoch lieutenant Andy Coulson to be his chief media aide.

So frequently did Murdoch meet with British prime ministers that he joked last year, "I wish they would leave me alone."

Murdoch protege Rebekah Brooks has also spent time with Britain's most powerful people. By her own estimation, Brooks saw Tony Blair more than 60 times in the decade he spent in office and she was friendly enough with the wife of Blair's successor, Gordon Brown, to be invited to a slumber party at the prime minister's official residence in 2008.

The Murdoch empire's British connections had a strikingly personal tone. Blair became the godfather of Murdoch's second-youngest child. Cameron, whose Oxfordshire home is practically next door to Brooks and her husband Charlie, used to regularly ride the couple's horses.

AP

In this Oct. 14, 2011 file photo, News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch delivers a keynote address at the National Summit on Education Reform in San Francisco.

But those intimate ties have frayed and snapped since revelations last year that journalists at Murdoch's News of the World tabloid routinely intercepted voice mail messages of those in the public eye. The scandal quickly spread beyond the News of the World to cover an array of other questionable activities by British journalists, as well as police and public officials.

The scandal has badly dented Murdoch's influence, forcing the closure of the News of the World and scuppering his bid for full control of satellite broadcaster BSkyB. So far has Murdoch's star fallen that some commentators spoke of a "British Spring" in reference to the toppling of autocratic rulers in the Arab world.

Coulson and Brooks both resigned before being arrested as two of the scandal's leading suspects, and Rupert Murdoch and his media executive son James have swapped discreet visits to No. 10 Downing Street with confrontational appearances before skeptical lawmakers in Parliament.

Once eager to secure Rupert Murdoch's blessing, Cameron has since ordered the official inquiry which is calling him and his son in for at least two full days of testimony starting Tuesday.

Although James Murdoch has largely kept his cool, his father has already begun to rattle the cages—taking to Twitter to blast the politicians who've turned their backs on him.

In March, Murdoch gleefully trumpeted his Sunday Times newspaper's expose of a Conservative Party fundraiser purporting to sell access to the prime minister, saying: "What was Cameron thinking? No-one, rightly or wrongly, will believe his story."

Later, in a transparent attack on Cameron's Tories, he attacked the "old toffs and right wingers who still want last century's status quo."

Media analyst Steven Hewlett said Murdoch had plenty of incentive to embarrass Cameron, or perhaps even Britain's entire ruling class.

"There's a feisty, slightly annoyed side to Rupert," Hewlett said. With the inquiry likely to focus on whether Murdoch used his power and access to lobby for regulatory favors, Murdoch could turn the question on its head by detailing how politicians tried to lobby him for favorable coverage.

"Rupert will say: 'It takes two to tango,'" Hewlett predicted.

Politicians in the United States and Australia—where Murdoch also wields considerable influence—may find the testimony compelling.

Media pundit Paul Connew said that next week would provide "fascinating theater" and attract "massive international media coverage."

Observers may also want to take note of the action taking place behind the scenes.

Police and prosecutors are considering the first batch of charges against those involved in the scandal, which may come in the second half of May, according to two people briefed on their progress.

And lawmakers on Parliament's media committee are putting the final touches on their report on the phone hacking scandal. The document is expected either to blast James Murdoch for failing to get a grip on the scandal or excoriate his lieutenants for keeping the 39-year-old executive in the dark.

Lawmaker Paul Farrelly has said that the report—which has been delayed for months—is tentatively due out May 1.

Hungarian jazz great guides young Roma musicians

FELSOORS, Hungary (AP)—For young Gypsy musicians, it's a unique opportunity to get ahead in life.

Renowned Hungarian jazz guitarist Ferenc Snetberger's music school for Roma kids is coming to the end of its inaugural year, with around 60 students getting instruction not just in their instruments but also in subjects such as English and computer skills seen as key to building a professional career.

Nearly all of the students at the Snetberger Music Talent Center in Felsoors, a picturesque village among rolling hills on the north side of Lake Balaton, two hours drive from the capital Budapest, come from underprivileged Roma families.

The integration of its Roma community, estimated at around 5-8 percent of Hungary's 10 million people, is one of the largest social and economic challenges facing the country. Unemployment among Hungary's Roma ballooned after the 1990 end of communism, which resulted in the close of many mines and factories that provided low-skilled jobs.

The school chose its students mainly through auditions held around the country; most of the teachers are, like Snetberger, also Roma.

"In regular music schools, their real talents and values often go unnoticed," Snetberger said. "That's why I wanted to have mostly Roma for teachers, because they are clear about this and recognize the students' skills."

"My main aim is to build on and develop what they bring from home, to open their musical world to new styles they haven't yet known."

One of the most talented musicians attending classes is Elemer Feher, a 20-year-old clarinetist from the city of Godollo, near Budapest. Feher is among the oldest students at the center and has already auditioned at conservatories in Germany, where he hopes to continue his studies.

While Feher's first love is classical music, the Snetberger experience is helping him expand his horizons.

"I've really enjoyed playing jazz and folk and other styles which I don't play that often," said Feher, before rehearsing a composition by Argentine tango great Astor Piazzolla.

"This talent school is a fantastic experience in my life. It gives the students many advantages and opportunities we could only dream about."

Snetberger, 55, is one of Hungary's most successful musicians, having played with Bobby McFerrin, Richard Bona, Laurindo Almeida and many others.

The idea to teach more than music at the center came from his own experiences abroad.

"If you don't speak English, it's hard to communicate and establish relationships," said Snetberger, who hopes to enroll a wide-enough range of students to form a chamber orchestra. "You need to be able to manage yourself. It's best they learn this from the beginning."

The center, which includes dormitories, classrooms and a combination dining and performance hall, among other facilities, was built mostly from a grant of (EURO)2.7 million ($3.6 million) received from Norway and finished last year.

To meet its operating expenses, the school relies mostly on funds from the EU, the Hungarian government and George Soros' Open Society Institute. The Norwegian Jazz Association and Hungary's Liszt Academy of Music are among the institutions providing teaching assistance.

AP

In this March 14, 2012 file photo, Ferenc Snetberger, guitarist and founder of the Snetberger Music Talent Center teaches in his school in Felsoors, Hungary.

With an annual budget of around 90 million forints ((EURO)305,000, $407,000), the endeavor is facing an uncertain future, said Zoltan Meszaros, the center's director.

The center still needs to raise around 20 percent of its 2012 budget target. Like many other projects which rely on EU funds, it soon may be forced to either cut expenses or look elsewhere for revenues.

Hungary stands to lose nearly (EURO)500 million ($667 million) in EU subsidies—almost 30 percent of the total it receives—unless it can take substantial steps in the next few months to ensure that its budget deficit remains within EU limits.

"If these funds are frozen, then we can close our doors," Snetberger said. "But this is unimaginable to me. The center is something unique in Europe and we will do everything we can to avoid letting it happen."

Meanwhile, classes are continuing and the second academic year will launch in June, when around 30 new students will join a similar number from the first year returning for another cycle.

Since the students attend regular schools, classes at the Snetberger center are held during June, October and March to at least partially overlap with school breaks—for a total of 12 weeks of instruction.

Between classes the students gather in small groups around the campus and since many have their instruments at hand, spontaneous jam sessions are practically unavoidable.

"Music is a gift," Feher said. "It's like when a person finds a life partner. I know music is never going to hurt."

For Snetberger, 55, educating young Gypsy musicians is rewarded by the inspiration he receives from them.

"I think no one knows them better than me because I come from the same poverty," said Snetberger, the youngest of six children from the northeastern Hungarian city of Salgotarjan.

"I think I play even better with them. They give me something special as well."

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The Lucky One

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

An Iraq War veteran searches for the woman from a mysterious photo that he credits with saving his life during three tours of duty in this romantic drama adapted from the book by Nicholas Sparks. U.S. Marine sergeant Logan Thibault (Zac Efron) was serving his country overseas when he happened across a discarded photo of a beautiful woman. An inscription on the back read "Keep Safe," yet the photo revealed no clues about either the subject or her whereabouts. Upon returning home to civilian life, Logan conducts his own research and discovers that the woman's name is Beth (Taylor Schilling) and that she cares for dogs at a small-town kennel. Before long, Logan manages to get a job at the kennel, and sets his sights on winning Beth's heart. But it won't be easy because Beth's past experiences have made her wary of relationships. Meanwhile, as Logan works to earn Beth's trust, a dark secret from her past threatens to derail his hope for a happy future together.

★ ★ ★

Three Stooges

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Cabin In The Woods

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford
Thriller • Rated R

American Reunion

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mirror Mirror

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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'Think Like a Man' muscles in at No. 1 with $33M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The date-night movies "Think Like a Man" and "The Lucky One" finally have knocked "The Hunger Games" off its No. 1 box-office perch.

"Think Like a Man," based on Steve Harvey's dating-advice best-seller, debuted as the top weekend draw with $33 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That's almost double what studio executives had expected for the Sony Screen Gems ensemble movie, which features Michael Ealy, Taraji P. Henson and Gabrielle Union.

The Warner Bros. drama "The Lucky One," starring Zac Efron in an adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' romance novel, opened at No. 2 with $22.8 million. It also came in a bit above studio expectations going into the weekend.

"Think Like a Man" was produced for about $13 million and took in nearly that much on opening day Friday alone, with business getting even better on Saturday. Sony executives had figured the movie might pull in about $17 million for the whole weekend.

"It was a wild ride. It just got better and better as the night went on Friday. Then to be up so much on Saturday," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony.

Lionsgate's blockbuster "The Hunger Games" took in $14.5 million, slipping to third-place after four weekends at No. 1. The film raised its domestic total to $356.9 million.

"The Hunger Games" added $13 million overseas, where its total now stands at $215.8 million, for a worldwide haul of $573 million.

Disney's nature documentary "Chimpanzee" opened at No. 4 with $10.2 million.

Despite some healthy newcomers, Hollywood's overall revenues dipped for the second weekend in a row. Domestic receipts totaled $129 million, down 5 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Rio" led with $26.3 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Revenues likely will decline again next weekend, with no huge newcomers expected to come close to the $86.2 million debut of "Fast Five" over that same weekend last year.

But business should shoot back up after that as the superhero ensemble "The Avengers" launches one of Hollywood's biggest summer lineups ever over the first weekend of May.

"'Fast Five' basically performed to summer box-office numbers in pre-summer last year," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "We're not going to have a `Fast Five' in late April this year, but that's OK, because we've got `Avengers a week later, and that'll more than make up for it."

So far in 2012, domestic revenues are at $3.1 billion, up 16.6 percent from last year's, according to Hollywood.com.

Paramount's 3-D version of James Cameron's blockbuster "Titanic" added $5 million to bring its three-week domestic total to $52.8 million. The film's lifetime domestic haul now stands at $653.6 million.

With $34.3 million more overseas, the 3-D version's international total rose to $225 million, pushing the lifetime worldwide gross of "Titanic" to $2.1 billion.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

AP

In this film image released by Sony Pictures - Screen Gems, Meagan Good is shown in a scene from "Think Like a Man."

1. "**Think Like a Man**," $33 million.
2. "**The Lucky One**," $22.8 million ($3.8 million international).
3. "**The Hunger Games**," $14.5 million ($13 million international).
4. "**Chimpanzee**," $10.2 million.
5. "**The Three Stooges**," $9.2 million.
6. "**The Cabin in the Woods**," $7.8 million ($3.3 million international).
7. "**American Reunion**," $5.2 million ($9.5 million international).
8. "**Titanic**" in 3-D, $5 million ($34.3 million international).
9. "**21 Jump Street**," $4.6 million ($3.1 million international).
10. "**Mirror Mirror**," $4.1 million ($5.8 million international).

■■■

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. "**Battleship**," $58.4 million.
2. "**Titanic**" in 3-D, $34.3 million.
3. "**The Hunger Games**," $13 million.
4. "**American Reunion**," $9.5 million.
5. "**Wrath of the Titans**," $8 million.
6. "**The Pirates! Band of Misfits**," $7.8 million.
7. "**Mirror Mirror**," $5.8 million.
8. "**Dr. Seuss' the Lorax**," $5.1 million.
9. "**Houba**," $4 million.
10. "**The Lucky One**," $3.8 million.

Ted Nugent agrees to plead guilty in illegal kill

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Rocker and wildlife hunter Ted Nugent has agreed to plead guilty to transporting a black bear he illegally killed in southeast Alaska.

Nugent made the admission in signing a plea agreement with federal prosecutors that was filed Friday in U.S. District Court.

Calls seeking comment from Nugent, his Anchorage attorney, Wayne Anthony Ross, and assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Schmidt were not immediately returned.

The plea agreement says Nugent illegally shot and killed the bear in May 2009 on Sukkwan Island days after wounding a bear in a bow hunt, which counted toward a state seasonal limit of one bear.

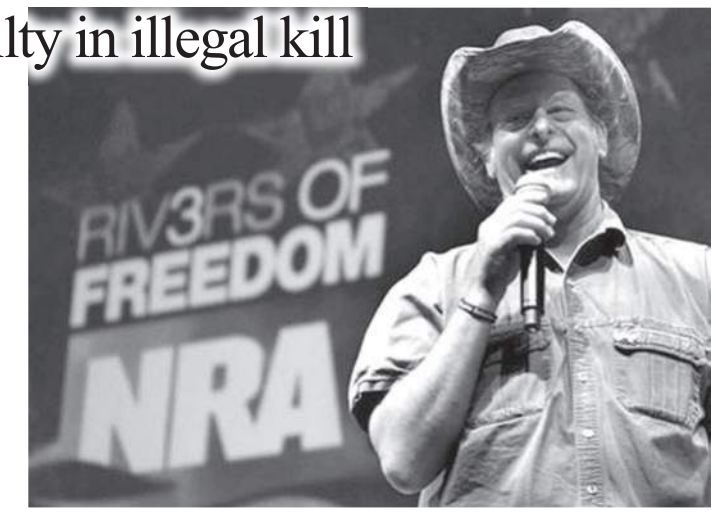
According to the agreement, first reported by the Anchorage Daily News, the six-day hunt was filmed for his Outdoor Channel television show, "Spirit of the Wild." In the hunt, Nugent used a number of bear-baiting sites on U.S. Forest Service property, according to the agreement.

The document says Nugent knowingly possessed and transported the bear in misdemeanor violation of the federal Lacey Act.

Nugent, identified in the agreement as Theodore A. Nugent, agreed to pay a $10,000 fine, according to the agreement, which says he also agreed with a two-year probation, including a special condition that he not hunt or fish in Alaska or Forest Service properties for one year. He also agreed to create a public service announcement that would be broadcast on his show every second week for one year, the document states.

"This PSA will discuss the importance of a hunter's responsibility in knowing the rules and regulations of the hunting activities that they engage in, which is subject to the review and final approval, prior to any broadcast, by a representative of the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Alaska," the agreement says.

Nugent, who signed the document April 14, also agreed to pay the state $600 for the bear that was taken illegally, according to the agreement. He would still need to enter the plea in court and have the plea be approved by a judge.



AP

In this May 1, 2011 file photo, musician and gun rights activist Ted Nugent addresses a seminar at the National Rifle Association's convention in Pittsburgh.

Nugent—a conservative activist famed for his 1977 hit "Cat Scratch Fever"—drew the attention of the Secret Service after he rallied support last weekend for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and said of the Obama administration: "We need to ride into that battlefield and chop their heads off in November." His comments were made during a National Rifle Association meeting in St. Louis.

Nugent said on his website Thursday that he discussed the matter with two agents on Thursday while in Oklahoma.

"The meeting could not have gone better," he said. "I thanked them for their service, we shook hands and went about our business. God bless the good federal agents wherever they may be."

Nugent said he was just speaking figuratively and that he didn't threaten anyone's life or advocate violence.

Cybill Shepherd's back, and on the 'List'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—For Cybill Shepherd, her role on "The Client List" is all about happy endings.

After a career as a teen model in the late '60s, she made her transition to film as the muse to boyfriend-director Peter Bogdanovich in his critically beloved "The Last Picture Show," and then scored commercial and critical success again in director Elaine May's "The Heartbreak Kid" and Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver."

But two ambitious big-screen Bogdanovich disappointments ("Daisy Miller" and "At Long Last Love") were, in part, the reason she retired in the late '70s.

Shepherd returned with two successful TV series, the '80s detective comedy "Moonlighting" and the '90s sitcom "Cybill," the memories of both tarnished by stories of behind-the-scenes strife after Shepherd was snubbed by the Emmys and watched co-stars Bruce Willis and Christine Baranski go home with the gold.

She addressed those issues in her 2000 autobiography, denying behind-the-scenes arguments, but admitting: "The grain of truth is this: Who doesn't want to win an Emmy?"

Since then, the 62-year-old Shepherd has focused on family and work. Despite eternal leading-lady looks she took on a blast of colorful supporting character-actor roles. She's a regular in Lifetime's "The Client List," which last weekend saw its audience grow to 2.9 million viewers, making it the network's second-highest-rated Sunday series, right behind its perennial hit "Army Wives." In demographic-focused cable-network terms, it's a breakthrough hit.

In the series, Shepherd portrays the Bible-thumpin', tough-Texas-talkin' mama Linette with the tease-it-to-Jesus-hairdo. Her only child, Jennifer Love Hewitt's Riley, is forced to support her family working as a masseuse—and not the kind her mama thinks.

AP

In this March 28, 2012 photo, actress Cybill Shepherd poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

"I think `the iron butterfly' is how they referred to (the late first lady) Lady Bird Johnson. Of course that became `steel magnolias,' so, definitely, Linette falls into that category," Shepherd said in a recent interview. "And, also, as Ann Richards, for former governor of Texas said, `The bigger the hair, the closer to God.'"

It takes some doing to get Shepherd's shoulder-length golden hair to that high state. "(Linette's hair) has got a life of its own. You learn to do it. I can't do it on myself like that," she continued. "But I've had hairdressers, and they just make my hair huge."

And then there's that accent. Memphis-native Shepherd naturally has a soft, sultry drawl, but had to get the stronger Texas sound down for "Picture Show," and it still proves no small feat.

"I can overdo the Texas accent. I, at one point, was saying, `Y'all HAWN-gry?' And the executive producer, who is from Texas, came up from Beaumont, said, `We don't say HAWN-gry. We say, `HUN-gry.' And I was like, `Oh, thank you. Tell me that as soon as you notice it."

For Shepherd, the "Client List" role feels a bit like following in the shoes of her mentors. She was just 20 when she did "Picture Show," opposite veterans Eileen Brennan, Ellen Burstyn and Cloris Leachman (the latter winning an Oscar for her performance). "And they were all playing these wonderful older characters in their prime. And I feel like this is my chance to do that."

Off screen, the twice-divorced Shepherd is very close to her three children, "but I don't have kids at home anymore. I have a 15-year-old cat." And there is a boyfriend. "Mum's the word. We've managed to stay under the radar."

But not as an actress: In addition to "Client List," it's likely she'll return to "Psych," on which she's made guest appearances, and she just signed to appear as a guest on "Hot in Cleveland."

She also said we're likely to see a video of a greatly improved "At Long Last Love"—the version of the flop that director Bogdanovich intended to release before the studio took it out of his hands.

"Mama very happy," Shepherd said, smiling. "I'm very happy. And I'm going to keep it that way."

Tattoo tribute draws fire online from distant cousin

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Two weeks ago I got a memorial tattoo done for my beloved grandma. It's on my arm and says "in loving memory" at the top. Gram's portrait is underneath, and a beautiful poem my grandpa wrote for her is under the portrait. The tattoo artist did a phenomenal job! It looks just like her and I was thrilled with the results.

The problem is, I posted a picture on Facebook of the tattoo, and out of the blue a distant cousin sent me a message telling me that the tattoo was "selfish and attention-seeking behavior"! He said he was hurt in more ways than one because of it.

Abby, I don't understand. I love this tattoo. I wanted to honor the woman who meant so much to me. Did I honor her the wrong way like he says? Was I selfish? I'm so hurt, I guess I'm just looking for some input into this. My friends and family say he's jealous and not to give it another thought, but I'm obsessing. Please help.

HONORING GRANDMA

DEAR HONORING GRANDMA: Please accept my sympathy for your obviously heartfelt loss. Your family and friends are correct that your cousin's comments are out of line. You are not responsible for your cousin's feelings, so stop obsessing. Whatever has hurt him "in more ways than one" is not your tattoo, or anything you posted on Facebook.

You say he is distant. Keep it that way and concentrate on something positive like the fact that you have honored your grandmother's memory. Then go on and build a happy and constructive life. I'm sure that is what she would want you to do.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My neighbors' teenage sons ask to borrow our lawn mower and other yard tools so they can make money cutting the grass for other neighbors. What do we do?

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

DEAR NEIGHBOR: How responsible are the boys? If they can be trusted with your lawn mower and other yard tools and you're kind-hearted, allow them to use the items with the understanding that they will be returned to you in the same condition in which they were borrowed. Then have them cut your lawn as a way of showing their appreciation.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My co-worker "Oscar" is a grouchy, bitter man. His cubicle is close to mine, so I can hear everything he says. He constantly talks about other employees and even about the owners of the company.

Oscar's general bitterness and poor attitude constantly bring me down. I have tried tuning him out, unsuccessfully. I don't like being subjected to this daily, but I don't know what I can do about it. Please help.

NEEDS POSITIVITY IN LEXINGTON, KY.

DEAR NEEDS POSITIVITY: The first thing you should do is tell Oscar that you can hear every word he's saying because he may not know that he's being overheard. Tell him his conversations are distracting and ask him to stop. If he does not comply, complain to a supervisor. And if your complaint is not acted upon, bring headphones, if it's allowed, so you won't be subjected to the daily dose of negativity.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Dessay bows out of Met 'Traviata' in mid-opera

NEW YORK (AP)—Natalie Dessay needed a relief soprano at the Metropolitan Opera.

After struggling through the first act of Verdi's "La Traviata" on Saturday night, Dessay was replaced by Hei-Kyung Hong for the final two acts.

The 47-year-old Dessay cut short some notes, swallowed others and didn't attempt the unwritten E-flat often sung at the end of "Sempre libera."

The Met said Dessay was still bothered by the cold that caused her to miss the opening performance of the revival on April 6 and be replaced then by Hong. Dessay had returned to sing three performances before Saturday, including one simulcast to theaters around the world on April 14.

There are three performances remaining in the run.

Doctor: Bee Gee Robin Gibb has colorectal cancer

AP

This Wednesday April 11, 2007 file photo shows Bee Gees singer Robin Gibb as he talks with journalists at the European Parliament in Brussels.

LONDON (AP)—Bee Gees star Robin Gibb has advanced colorectal cancer and remains in intensive care after waking from a coma, his doctor said Sunday. The statement confirmed the exact nature of the illness afflicting the artist.

Dr. Andrew Thillainayagam said Gibb had recently caught pneumonia because he was weakened from chemotherapy and two operations.

The 62-year-old singer fell into a coma last week after contracting the pneumonia. Thillainayagam said that three days ago he had warned Gibb's family that he may not wake up. Instead, Gibb is now fully conscious and able to speak.

Thillainayagam said Gibb is still in intensive care and is "exhausted, extremely weak and malnourished." He is breathing with the help of an oxygen mask and needs intravenous feeding and antibiotics.

"It is testament to Robin's extraordinary courage, iron will and deep reserves of physical strength that he has overcome quite incredible odds to get where he is now," Thillainayagam said in a statement.

He added: "Robin's wife, Dwina and son, Robin-John, his son Spencer and daughter Melissa have been at his bedside every day, talking to him and playing his favorite music to him. They have been tireless in their determination never to give up on him."

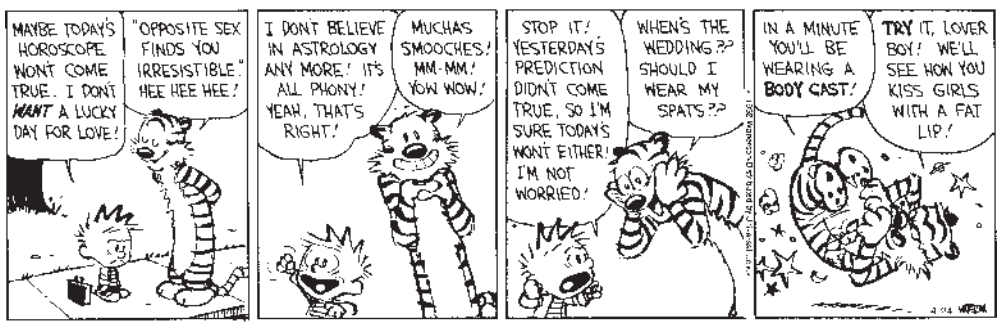
Gibb has been ill for several months and he cancelled multiple public appearances last year. He has said on his website last year that he had been seriously ill but did not give more details. He did tell the BBC he had a growth on his colon that was removed. Several media outlets have reported he has cancer.

The Bee Gees—British-born, Australia-raised brothers Robin, Barry and Maurice Gibb—had a string of disco-era hits including "How Deep is Your Love" and "Stayin' Alive."

Pastimes

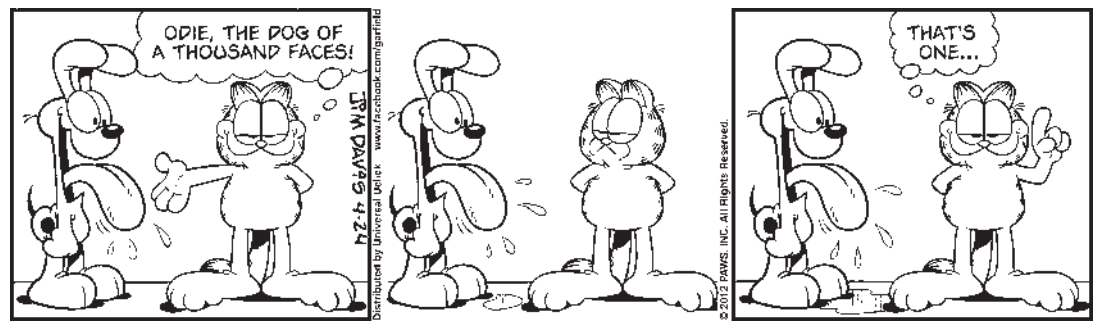
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MAYBE TODAY'S HOROSCOPE WON'T COME TRUE. I DON'T WANT A LUCKY DAY FOR LOVE!
"OPPOSITE SEX FINDS YOU IRRESISTIBLE." HEE HEE HEE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN ASTROLOGY ANY MORE! IT'S ALL PHONY! YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
MUCHAS SMOOCHES! MM-MM! YOW WOW!
STOP IT! YESTERDAY'S PREDICTION DIDN'T COME TRUE, SO I'M SURE TODAY'S WON'T EITHER! I'M NOT WORRIED!
WHEN'S THE WEDDING?? SHOULD I WEAR MY SPATS??
IN A MINUTE YOU'LL BE WEARING A BODY CAST!
TRY IT, LOVER BOY! WE'LL SEE HOW YOU KISS GIRLS WITH A FAT LIP!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


ODIE, THE DOG OF A THOUSAND FACES!
THAT'S ONE...
JIM DAVIS 4-24
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WELL, HONEY, I DID IT. MCCAFFREY'S BIOGRAPHY IS FINISHED.
CAN I READ IT?
SURE.
OH, HONEY, NO. THIS ISN'T THE BOOK.
IT'S MY LIST OF PEOPLE WHO UNDERESTIMATED ME IN SCHOOL.
IT'S SMALLER THAN I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.
www.JoeyMac.com
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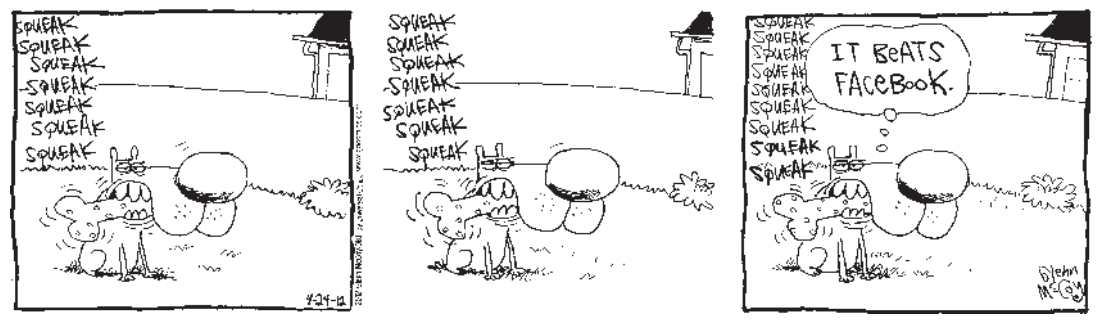
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

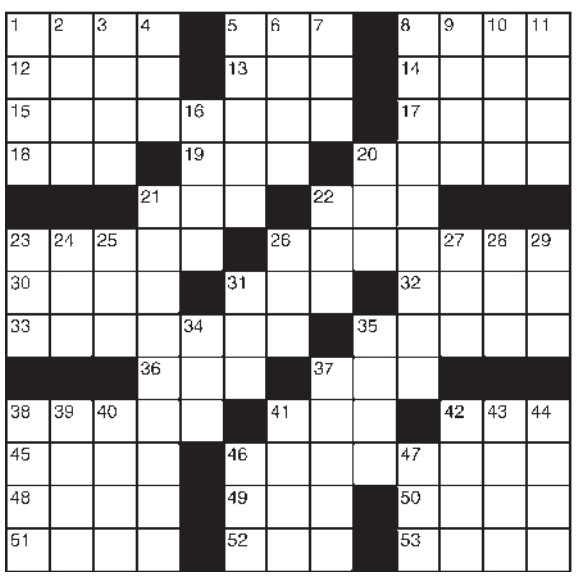
ACROSS
1 Egyptian fertility goddess
5 Lingerie item
8 Go bankrupt
12 Less than bi-
13 Started
14 Discourteous
15 Many eBay sales
17 Geometry calculation
18 Speedometer stat
19 Father
20 Rascally sort
21 Lustrous black
22 Stick out
23 — New Guinea
26 Starbucks employee
30 Luke Wilson's brother
31 Energy
32 Piece of work
33 Skirt slit
35 Pesky insects
36 Cowboy nickname
37 — de deux
38 Unadorned
41 Island neckpiece
42 Witness
45 Continental coin
46 Parts
48 "— go bragh!"
49 Khan title
50 YouTube offering
51 Cincinnati team
52 Triumphed
53 Vortex

DOWN
1 Mosque VIP
2 First course, maybe
3 Part of the foot?
4 Drunkard
5 Become swollen
6 Tear
7 Commercials
8 One-half and three-fourths
9 Emanation
10 The same
11 Jump
16 Thought
20 South (Sp.)
21 Meeting places
22 Toast topper
23 Burst
24 Piercing tool
25 Shell game item
26 Piece
27 Hot tub
28 Ancient boy king
29 Donkey
31 Irritate
34 Understanding
35 Pace
37 Pie nut
38 Juror, in theory
39 Enticement
40 Saharan
41 Toy block name
42 Hawked
43 Oklahoma city
44 Catch sight of
46 Carpentry tool
47 Hockey venue

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	L	K		C	A	R		C	H	O	P	
R	A	N	T		A	G	E		R	A	V	E
E	M	I	R		B	A	H		A	J	A	R
S	A	T	A	N		R	A	S	P			
			P	E	A		B	I	S	T	R	O
P	L	A	S	T	I	C		S	H	O	O	K
E	A	C	H		D	O	C		O	D	O	R
E	T	H	O	S		B	A	Z	O	O	K	A
P	E	Y	O	T	E		W	I	T			
			T	Y	R	O		P	E	O	N	Y
I	D	L	E		U	S	A		R	H	E	A
T	I	E	R		P	L	Y		S	I	A	M
S	P	A	S		T	O	F			O	P	S

Yesterday's answer 4-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Clarkson, 30; Derek Luke, 38; Barbra Streisand, 70; Shirley MacLaine, 78.

Happy Birthday: Don't believe everything you hear. Decipher the motives behind what others do or say before you make a decision that will alter your life professionally. You may need to use a little force in order to get what you want. Speak passionately about your likes and dislikes. Don't get angry; get moving. Your numbers are 8, 13, 25, 29, 33, 39, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get back to basics and what you do best. Don't take anyone's word for it; do your own research. Love and romance are on the rise, and turning a friendship into something more serious can benefit you in many ways. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Size up your situation and look for ways to pick up additional skills, knowledge and information that will help turn an idea into a lucrative venture. Taking action and discussing plans with someone to whom you are emotionally tied will pay off. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll charm someone important with your quick wit and unusual approach to solving problems. Emotions will surface, giving others a chance to see how passionate and sincere you can be. Channel your energy into personal improvements. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Now is not the time to share your plans. Someone is likely to intervene and ruin a surprise you have for someone special. Too much talk and not enough action will lead to trouble and an unexpected change of plans. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll attract attention with your charm and passionate response. Make a change if you think it will help you get what you want. You will learn easily and should spend time with people who have something interesting to offer. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Not everyone will be eager to do things your way, so do your own thing and allow others the same privilege. Using force will end up working against you. A challenge will require your undivided attention. Networking will be necessary. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will learn a lot from the people you are close to. Observe what others do and say and you will have a better handle on what you can do to get ahead. Expect a partnership to go through changes. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more emphasis on what you can do. Speculating or offering something that may or may not actually manifest will damage your reputation. Do your due diligence before taking action. Networking will help you attract a worthwhile proposal. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Putting time and effort into your home and family will strengthen important personal relationships. Offering your services at a premium will help you advance. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Opportunities and success are earned, and if you put greater effort into getting what you want right now, you will be successful. Open your doors to people who have something to contribute, and mastermind what you want to achieve. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put more emphasis on home, family and getting your place in order. Money can be made, contracts signed and deals put into place. Love is highlighted, and romancing someone you want to be with forever should be your goal. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't trust anyone with your personal secrets. Bide your time and keep a close watch over any personal situation you face. Keep your distance from anyone making impossible promises. Uncertainty should be your warning to retreat. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming and talkative. You can rely on your wit to get your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		2			1		
	3			4	5		6	2
7								
	7			9				4
	2						3	
8				5			9	
								9
9	6		1	7			5	
		1			8		7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	9	7	3	1	5	2	6
1	5	6	4	8	2	7	3	9
7	3	2	5	6	9	1	8	4
6	9	4	8	5	7	3	1	2
2	7	8	9	1	3	6	4	5
5	1	3	2	4	6	9	7	8
8	6	7	1	9	4	2	5	3
3	4	1	6	2	5	8	9	7
9	2	5	3	7	8	4	6	1

Difficulty Level ★ 4/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TANGY SAUCES Solution: 7 letters

H	C	G	R	O	V	A	L	F	Y	C	I	P	S	A
A	O	A	Ⓡ	Ⓘ	Ⓒ	Ⓔ	C	O	R	J	R	P	K	S
B	N	R	P	E	P	P	E	R	H	U	U	A	L	L
A	D	L	S	S	E	E	V	E	Y	O	I	I	B	A
N	I	I	A	E	A	N	I	T	S	S	C	T	C	S
E	M	C	U	K	R	I	H	A	O	E	T	L	S	Y
R	E	H	C	D	R	A	C	W	S	M	V	A	A	P
O	N	I	E	E	E	O	D	I	A	I	A	D	L	U
I	T	C	S	S	N	E	P	I	N	R	D	T	T	R
N	T	K	W	I	N	G	S	E	S	I	M	A	O	E
F	C	E	O	R	A	N	G	E	T	H	B	O	G	E
U	T	N	S	T	E	A	K	I	E	A	S	G	L	T
S	S	D	E	I	R	D	V	A	S	T	S	H	I	U
E	U	P	S	A	X	E	T	C	E	V	I	L	O	A
D	I	P	P	I	N	G	O	R	E	C	I	P	E	S

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Additive, Alcohol, Capsaicin, Chicken, Chive, Condiment, Crab, Crystal, Dipping, Dried, Eggs, Flavor, Fruit, Garlic, Green, Habanero, Heat, Horseradish, Infused, Juicy, Oil, Olive, Onions, Orange, Pepper, Pork, Puree, Recipes, Rice, Ripe, Rooster, Salsa, Salt, Sauces, Saute, Seed, Slices, Soups, Spicy, Steak, Stews, Tabasco, Texas, Tomato, Vinegar, Warm, Water, Wings

Yesterday's Answer: Adda River

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Position: (1) Accountant **Salary:** $6.00 per hour

Job Qualification: Bachelors Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

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LOST PASSPORT

Name:	**Jiao, Yang**
Passport number:	**G55688342**
Birth Place:	**HeilongJiang, China**
Date of Issue:	**10 Oct 2011**
Date of Expiry:	**09 Oct 2021**

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff, -v- **LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0131** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 218-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters cast of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35′ 00″, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;
Thence S 80° 13 00″ E, 65.95 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 09° 47′ 00″ E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 80° 13′ 00″ W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 04/11/12 **Closing Date:** Continuous*

JVA#11-005:	Accountant Chief
Pay Level / Step:	Ungraded
Annual Salary:	$40,000.00 - $50,000.00**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#12-003:	Marketing Trainee
Pay Level / Step:	12/02-12/08
Annual Salary:	$10,598.03 - $14,193.06**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#12-004:	Community Project Assistant (Part-Time)
Pay Level / Step:	17/01-17/08
Annual Salary:	$12,431.54 - $17,482.77**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
JVA#12-005:	Trades Technician II
Pay Level / Step:	22/01-22/10
Annual Salary:	$15,860.10 - $24,584.23**
Location:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Rota

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.
** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Wild West

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

Employment Opportunity

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE) seeks a

Fulltime Office Manager

Essential competencies
1. Billing
2. Budgeting
3. Communications
4. Organizational skills
5. Human resources
6. Computers: Data base management/Front page/publisher software

Qualifications
Bachelors Degree preferred, but not required, with 3 or more years of managerial experience. Salary range 30,000 to 35,000 yr.
Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Fulltime Office Clerk

Essential competencies
1. filing
2. answering phones
3. accepting incoming mail
4. Organizational skills
5. Good communication skills
6. Computers: data entry

Qualifications
High school Graduate, some college preferred but not required, with 3 or more years of experience. Salary range 13,000 to 15,000 yr
Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Closing Date: April 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.
A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: cbne.resumes@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$27**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$39**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$24**	**$42**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$36**	**$57**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Lakers outlast Thunder in double OT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Metta World Peace was subdued and contrite in the Los Angeles Lakers' locker room, apologizing to Oklahoma City's James Harden for throwing the elbow that sent them both to the locker room in the second quarter.

They both missed a beauty of a game that could echo into the postseason for two division leaders.

Kobe Bryant scored six of his 26 points in the second overtime alongside an unorthodox Lakers lineup, and Los Angeles rallied from an 18-point deficit in the second half for a 114-106 victory over the Thunder on Sunday.

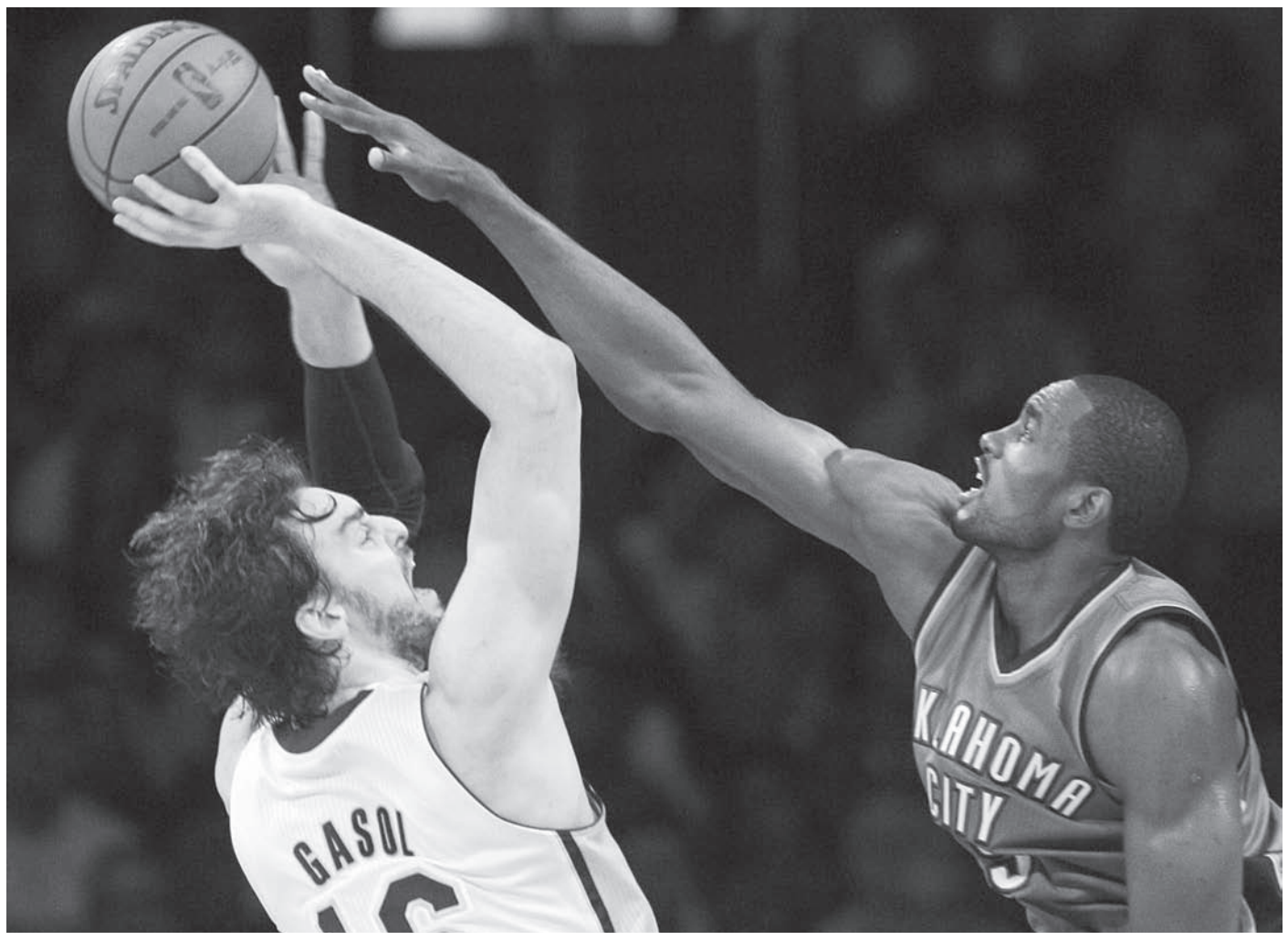
Pau Gasol had 20 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists for the Lakers, who made an impressive comeback in their regular-season home finale against off-target Thunder stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, who combined to miss 42 of their 56 shots. Los Angeles' rally stunned the Thunder and set an early tone for their possible second-round playoff matchup.

"It's not so much that we beat Oklahoma, but how we did it," said Bryant, who shook off his own woeful shooting game with two key 3-pointers late in regulation. "In the playoffs, particularly if you don't have home-court advantage, you're going to have games like this. We have to have the poise and the confidence to just keep chipping away."

Yet everything after halftime was colored by the drama and violence that occurred 1:37 before the break.

World Peace had just dunked over Durant and Serge Ibaka on a fast break and was headed back upcourt when he ran into Harden. While pounding his chest with his right arm, World Peace raised his left elbow over Harden's shoulder and cleanly hit Harden in the back of the skull.

Harden dropped to the court and stayed down for about a minute before heading to the locker room. Ibaka and other Thunder players challenged World Peace, but were kept apart, and World Peace was ejected after officials reviewed the tape.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, of Spain, shoots against Oklahoma City Thunder defender Serge Ibaka in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, April 22, 2012. The Lakers won in double overtime, 114-106.

Clippers 107, Hornets 98

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 33 points and 13 assists, Randy Foye hit three of his six 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied for a 107-98 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Sunday night to move within a half-game of the Lakers for the Pacific Division lead and the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference.

Foye scored 24 points, and Blake Griffin had 21 points and 15 rebounds in the Clippers' 40th victory—their most since the 2006-07 team won that many. Paul made 17 of 19 free throws, while Griffin hit 7 of 9.

Eric Gordon scored 17 points and Al-Farouq Aminu added 14 against their former team. They were part of the trade that sent Paul to the Clippers before the season.

Nuggets 101, Magic 74

In Denver, JaVale McGee scored 17 points, throwing down a half-dozen dunks in the second half, and the Denver Nuggets pulled away to beat the Orlando Magic 101-74 on Sunday night

Danilo Gallinari also scored 17, Arron Afflalo had 15 and Ty Lawson 13 for the Nuggets, who swept the two-game season series with Orlando, avoiding the Magic's injured Dwight Howard both times.

Ryan Anderson scored 24 points for the Magic, who lost their third straight. Glen Davis added 14 points for Orlando, which also lost guard Jameer Nelson to a calf injury. He left the game in the first quarter and did not return.

Spurs 114, Cavaliers 98

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 20 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their seventh straight victory, 114-98 over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday.

San Antonio (47-16) moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Oklahoma City, which lost to the Lakers earlier Sunday, in the race for the best record in the Western Conference. A victory over Portland on Monday would secure the top spot in the West for the Spurs, who own the tiebreaker over the Thunder.

Cleveland (21-42) lost for the fourth time in its last five games despite the Spurs giving Tim Duncan the night off.

Kings 114, Bobcats 88

In Charlotte, jetlagged or not, the Sacramento Kings were determined not to be the team the Charlotte Bobcats beat to end their long losing streak.

The Kings made the most of a rare late-season cross country trip to the East coast and throttled the hapless Bobcats 114-88 Sunday night behind a dominant effort from DeMarcus Cousins, who had 29 points and 10 rebounds. It was Charlotte's franchise-record 20th straight loss.

The Kings had lost nine of their previous 10 games, but this one was never in doubt as they scored 78 points inside the paint and led by 35 in the fourth quarter.

Warriors 93, Timberwolves 88

In Minneapolis, Charles Jenkins had 24 points and nine assists while playing all 48 minutes to rally the Golden State Warriors from a 21-point deficit to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, 93-88, on Sunday night.

Brandon Rush scored 10 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and also grabbed nine rebounds. Klay Thompson scored 17 points for the Warriors, who snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Nikola Pekovic had 19 points and 16 rebounds, and JJ Barea had 14 points and 12 assists in all 48 minutes for the Timberwolves, who announced earlier that All-Star power forward Kevin Love would not play the final two games of the season because of a concussion.

Pistons 76, Raptors 73

In Auburn Hills, reserve Ben Gordon scored 19 points, including the go-ahead basket, to help the Detroit Pistons beat the Toronto Raptors 76-73 on Sunday night.

Gordon's 3-pointer with less than 3 minutes to play broke a 68-all tie and he added four subsequent free throws to keep Detroit ahead. Rookie Brandon Knight also had 19 points to help the Pistons end a two-game losing streak.

DeMar DeRozan had 16 for the Raptors, who lost their third straight.

The Pistons couldn't celebrate the victory until Linas Kleiza's 3-pointer bounced off the rim as time expired.

Heat 97, Rockets 88

In Miami, LeBron James had 32 points and eight rebounds, Norris Cole added 16 points and the Miami Heat pulled away in the final minutes to beat Houston 97-88 on Sunday night and eliminate the Rockets from postseason contention.

Mike Miller scored 11 for injury-depleted Miami, which still has a mathematical chance of catching Chicago for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs. Joel Anthony added 11 for the Heat on 5-for-5 shooting.

Chandler Parsons scored a career-high 23 for Houston, which led by as many as 13 in the first half. Parsons tied the game at 83 with a layup late in the fourth, before James' 3-pointer sparked an 8-0 run that put Miami in control.

Knicks 113, Hawks 112

In Atlanta, Carmelo Anthony scored 39 points, and the New York Knicks outlasted the Atlanta Hawks 113-112 on Sunday in a game between two playoff-bound teams still battling for postseason seeding.

The Hawks took their final lead at 112-111 on Joe Johnson's 3-pointer with 1:50 left. Anthony countered with a jumper 10 seconds later for the final margin.

Off an inbound play with three seconds remaining, Atlanta's Marvin Williams beat Amare Stoudemire off the dribble at the top of the lane. But as he went for a dunk just before the buzzer, Stoudemire blocked the shot. Williams, who led Atlanta with a season-high 29 points, wanted a foul call on Anthony or Stoudemire, both of whom appeared to make contact.

Curtis gets first tour win since '06 at Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Ben Curtis won the Texas Open on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title since 2006, holding off Matt Every and John Huh in a tense back-nine finish for a two-stroke victory.

Curtis birdied the par-5 18th for an even-par 72 and 9-under total. It was a redeeming and emotional win for the 2003 British Open winner whose long slump relegated him to status so low that the victory came in only the fourth PGA Tour event that he managed to get into this year.

Curtis calmly hugged his caddie after coolly sinking the clinching 12-footer, but then fought back tears just moments later while being interviewed.

"It's been a tough couple years just fighting through it," Curtis said softly and haltingly, after pausing for a few seconds to compose himself.

Every had a 71 and lost a chance at his first tour win with a shaky putter. Huh roared back with a 69, but the Mayakoba Classic winner fell just short of completing what would have been a remarkable comeback.

Huh nearly withdrew Thursday when he plunged to 5 over through only his first three holes and finished with a 77. But he rebounded with rounds of 68 and 67 to give Curtis and Every another player to worry about Sunday.

"I didn't really expect too much, final round," Huh said.

While Huh's first round was ultimately too big of a hole to overcome, Every couldn't close the deal after starting the tournament with a course-record 63. Four blown putts from 9 feet or closer—including a 6-footer for birdie—kept Every a stroke back until Curtis birdied No. 18.

It was nonetheless a validating week for the 28-year-old Floridian, whose only name recognition in three winless years on the tour was a misdemeanor marijuana arrest as a rookie in 2010. That earned a PGA Tour suspension, and even now, Every's official biography lists regaining his tour privileges as his biggest achievement.

Defending champion Brendan Steele, a distant afterthought for three rounds, made himself known again at TPC San Antonio with a bogey-free 67 to finish an impressive weekend climb from 56th. He tied for fourth with Bob Estes (69), Brian Gay (70), and Charlie Wi (71) at 5 under.

Curtis wasn't the only emotional player on No. 18. Scott Piercy walked to the final hole tied for fourth at 5 under but walked off snapping his putter in half with two furious strikes over his knee. That was after the tour journeyman quadruple-bogeyed in a meltdown that started with a penalty stroke and ended with him tossing his glove in disgust after two-putting.

Piercy finished the round at par and eight back. Matt Kuchar, the tournament's top-ranked player at No. 15, had a 73 to finish at 2 under.

Parra's grand slam helps Arizona end 5-game skid

PHOENIX (AP) — Ian Kennedy took advantage of Arizona's early offensive outburst.

Gerardo Parra hit his first career grand slam to cap a five-run second inning and the Diamondbacks beat the Atlanta Braves 6-4 Sunday, snapping a five-game losing streak.

"It's nice having a 5-1 lead going into the third inning," Kennedy said. "You can be a little more aggressive with the guys in the middle of the lineup."

Atlanta had won five in a row.

"We ran into a hot ball club," said Arizona manager Kirk Gibson. "This feels pretty good. It makes you smile. It's been a while since we've shaken hands after a game."

Parra was starting in the unfamiliar territory of center field with the absence of Chris Young and he made the most of the opportunity, finishing with two hits and a stolen base in four at-bats.

"I feel comfortable anytime I see myself in the lineup," Parra said. "I'll play anywhere as long as I get to play."

Kennedy (3-0) posted his seventh straight win dating to last August. The Diamondbacks helped him by scoring more than two runs for the first time in four games.

"I feel like last year is last year," Kennedy said. "I just try to go out there with the same approach I've had for the last year and a half. As a pitcher you remember the frustrating times and only the really good times."

Kennedy allowed three runs and nine hits in seven innings. David Hernandez retired the side in the eighth and J.J. Putz earned his fifth save despite allowing a one-out home run to Juan Francisco.

Randall Delgado (2-1) retired the first two Arizona batters in the second. Jason Kubel then singled, Cody Ransom doubled and John McDonald was intentionally walked to load the bases. Delgado walked Kennedy on four pitches before Parra hit a drive into the pool area beyond the right-center field fence for a 5-1 lead.

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks' Gerrardo Parra gets ready to bat during a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Sunday, April 22, 2012, in Phoenix.

Padres 6, Phillies 1

In San Diego, the Philadelphia Phillies added a few defensive mishaps to their recent hitting woes.

A day after San Diego ended a 13-game home losing streak to Phillies, the Padres shut down Philadelphia 6-1 Sunday.

"We are going to test our fortitude," said right fielder Hunter Pence, who is hitless in his last 15 at-bats. "We are going to test our resolve right here, especially in Philly. I have all the confidence within. I owe a lot to my teammates, the way I've been swinging it, to the Phillies, to everyone."

Philadelphia has scored two or fewer runs in 10 of 16 games this season. The NL East champions also committed three errors in the game after beginning the day with the fewest errors (six) and best fielding percentage (.990) in the league.

Rockies 4, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo is not going to let a wasted strong start get him down.

Michael Cuddyer lined a two-run double in the eighth and Jeremy Guthrie pitched seven strong innings Sunday, leading the Colorado Rockies to a 4-1 victory over the Brewers.

"It's a tough loss, but you've got to keep moving forward and keep battling and keep working hard, and hopefully we'll be able to turn this around," the Brewers right-hander said.

The loss also put a damper on the celebration of Ryan Braun's NL MVP and Silver Slugger awards. The Brewers slugger received his trophies in a pregame ceremony.

Reds 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, on a cold day at Wrigley Field, the Cubs played just bad enough to lose.

Johnny Cueto threw 6 1-3 strong innings to lead the Cincinnati Reds to a 4-3 win over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday.

Cueto (2-0) allowed one earned run, scattering five hits. He struck out seven and lowered his ERA to 1.78 for the season.

The game time temperature was 45 degrees.

"He can make the ball sink, he can get it to 94 miles an hour," said Cubs manager Dale Sveum. "In these conditions against those pitchers, it's very tough to string a lot of hits together."

Cardinals 5, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, St. Louis Cardinals right-hander Kyle Lohse doesn't need much run support to win the way he is pitching at the moment.

The same goes for Pittsburgh's Erik Bedard.

Lohse, however, has the luxury of playing on the team with the National League's best offense. It made all the difference Sunday.

Lohse scattered six hits while pitching into the eighth inning to lead the Cardinals past the Pirates, 5-1.

David Freese had a two-run single and Rafael Furcal had three hits, while Lohse (3-0) turned in another strong start. He struck out five without issuing a walk in a outing where his ERA rose slightly from 0.89 to 0.99.

Astros 12, Dodgers 0

In Houston, the trick now for the Astros will be to try to bottle some of this offense.

The Astros enjoyed an offensive explosion for the second time in four games Sunday afternoon, getting a grand slam from Jordan Schafer and a strong pitching performance from Wandy Rodriguez to blank the Dodgers, 12-0, at sun-drenched Minute Maid Park.

After erupting for 17 hits and 11 runs on Thursday in Washington, the Astros were held to a total of two runs while losing the first two games of the series against the Dodgers. Carlos Lee matched that output with a two-run homer in the first inning Sunday, and Schafer's grand slam put Houston ahead, 6-0, in the second.

"Wandy threw a great game today, and he only needed one [run]," Lee said. "He continues to pitch great and keep us in the games."

The 12 runs scored by the Astros are a season high, and the most runs by Houston since it scored 12 on May 30, 2011, against the Cubs at Wrigley Field. It's Houston's largest shutout victory since beating the Rockies, 12-0, on July 1, 2007.

Rangers 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Alberto Gonzalez's squeeze bunt turned into an RBI single in the 11th inning when umpires missed a call, and the Texas Rangers went on to beat the Detroit Tigers 3-2 on Sunday.

Gonzalez admitted after the game the ball hit him around the knee. Rather than a foul ball, the play stood.

Plate umpire Tim Welke saw a replay afterward and said the ball did in fact hit Gonzalez, but his crew hadn't seen that initially.

With the bases loaded and nobody out, Gonzalez bunted back to pitcher Thad Weber (0-1), who had no play at the plate on runner Nelson Cruz. Weber froze with the ball, and first baseman Miguel Cabrera struggled to get back to the bag in time. Everybody was safe, and Texas took the lead.

Detroit manager Jim Leyland argued that it should've been a foul ball.

Robbie Ross (3-0) pitched a scoreless 10th for Texas, and Joe Nathan finished for his fourth save. Josh Hamilton homered for the Rangers.

Blue Jays 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Brett Lawrie stole home and drove in two runs as the Toronto Blue Jays sent Kansas City to its 10th straight loss.

This is the Royals' longest losing streak since dropping 12 in a row in May 2008.

Ricky Romero (3-0), who is 11-2 in 17 starts since July 21, won his third consecutive start.

Francisco Cordero gave up a run in the ninth, but posted his first save in his first opportunity. Cordero, who will serve as Toronto's closer with Sergio Santos going on the disabled list, collected his 328th career save.

The Blue Jays scored four runs in the fifth to chase Danny Duffy (1-2).

Rays 6, Twins 2

In St. Petersberg, Desmond Jennings homered and had one of the Rays' team record four sacrifice flys as Tampa Bay beat Minnesota.

Jennings had a sacrifice fly during a two-run third and made it 5-0 in the fifth with a two-run homer off Francisco Liriano (0-3).

Liriano went five innings, allowing five runs. The lefthander has given up 22 runs, 25 hits and 13 walks over 16 1-3 innings this season.

Minnesota's Josh Willingham went 0 for 2, ending his season-opening 15-game hitting streak that tied Kirby Puckett's team record set in 1994.

Tampa Bay's Jeff Niemann (1-2) didn't allow a hit until Clete Thomas' two-out single in the fifth.

Orioles 3, Angels 2, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Nick Markakis hit a two-run single in the eighth inning and a run-scoring single in the 10th, leading the Baltimore Orioles over the Los Angeles Angels.

LaTroy Hawkins (0-1) came on in the 10th and issued a leadoff walk to No. 9 hitter Robert Andino, who advanced on a sacrifice by Endy Chavez and a groundout by J.J. Hardy. Markakis grounded a hard single up the middle that deflected off the glove of second baseman Howie Kendrick and into center field.

Pedro Strop (2-1) pitched two innings for the win despite allowing a tying solo homer in the eighth by Kendrick. Jim Johnson got three outs for his seventh save.

Albert Pujols was 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and is homerless in his 16 games and 65 at-bats, the longest drought from the start of a season in his 12-year career.

White Sox 7, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Alex Rios got three hits and drove in three runs as the Chicago White Sox completed a series sweep of the Seattle Mariners.

A day after Phil Humber pitched a perfect game for the White Sox, John Danks (2-2) went six innings for the win.

Hector Santiago pitched a scoreless ninth for his fifth save of the season, closing out Chicago's 19th victory in its last 22 games against the Mariners.

Rios hit a tying, two-run triple in the sixth off Kevin Millwood (0-1) and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Kosuke Fukudome to put the White Sox ahead for good.

Athletics 5, Indians 1

In Oakland, Seth Smith hit a two-run homer, helping Tyson Ross get his first win in nearly a year as the Oakland Athletics avoided a series sweep with a Victory over Cleveland.

Cliff Pennington had two hits and drove in two runs for the A's, who ended a two-game slide and have won four of six. Kurt Suzuki also drove in a run.

Ross (1-0) allowed a run and four hits in 6 2-3 innings. He walked five and struck out four while getting his first victory since last May 14 against the Chicago White Sox.

Justin Masterson (0-2) gave up four runs on six hits over five innings and has allowed 17 runs over his last 13 2-3 innings.

COMETS

From Page 28

15-2, and the As Matuis Twins (6-5) pelted the Braves, 11-1.

Comets 5, Falcons 3

The Falcons took a 2-1 lead in the first inning off a two-RBI double from Jose Pangelinan, who brought Keoki Blas ans Ace Evangelista home. Then the Comets' Norman Villagomez stole home to tie it up in the second and his teammates pulled ahead, 4-3, in the third inning. Aurel Mendiola cranked a double and later stole home, while Erik Cruz doubled in Ethan Babauta.

Cruz stepped at the mound with one out in the top of the first inning and despite a slight hiccup in the third inning, he kept a lid on the Falcons' offense.

Austin Hocog lifted a solo shot at the start of the fourth inning to help secure the win.

Cruz gave up zero earned runs off four hits and three walks with 11 strikeouts through five and two-thirds innings. He also swung 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Mendiola batted 3-for-3 with two runs.

IT&E 14, A's 9

IT&E overcame a 0-5 deficit with six runs in the bottom of the second inning off five hits. Michael Jones bagged an RBI double and Won Kwon Kim hit an RBI base rip.

Jae Hae Lee scored later off an error in the third and the count shifted to 8-7, in favor of IT&E after the fourth frame.

After pulling to within a run in the previous inning, the A's were in front, 9-8, in the fifth with a couple of runs off three hits. Rudy Santos busted an RBI single.

IT&E kept its eye on the prize at the start of the final frame and worked out six runs in the clutch. The A's on the other hand struggled under pressure and let the game slip away from their hands.

IT&E called Lee to the mound to close the final frame and he left the A's with runners at second and third base.

Little Legals 3, Rays 2

The Rays' Manny Esefon led off the third inning with a single and made it all the way around with the help of some extra throws, while Little Legals' Pedro Maratita drove in Jeffrey Castro in the bottom frame to knot the count at 1-all.

Then the Rays took the lead in the fifth off a Jay Kalen double that scored leadoff man Kody Omengkar. However, the Little Legals mustered two runs in the sixth and final stand, while the Rays committed some costly defensive errors out on the field.

The Little Legals' Nnes Siech came to the mound with two runners on and zero outs in the third inning and gave up one earned run off four hits and had two strikeouts through four innings. Castro scored twice, while Quinton Deleon Guerrero swung 2-for-3.

Ol'Aces 11, Red Sox 1

The Ol'Aces jumped all over the Red Sox and quickly amassed a stout 7-1 lead after the first three frames. Nathan Higgins bagged an RBI single in the first inning, Kimo Angailen bashed a two-RBI single in the second, and Jimmy Kaipat delivered an RBI base rip in the third.

The Red Sox's lone-run came from Jonah Reyes in the bottom of the second inning and they were pretty well held in check by Ol'Aces' pitcher Virgil Secharmedal.

Angailen brought home two more runs with a base smash in the fifth before his teammates mustered two more runs for good measure at the end of regulation.

Secharmedal gave up an unearned run off five hits and two walks with 10 strikeouts through six inning. He also fielded four ground outs and batted 2-for-2 with three runs, three bases on balls, and two stolen bases.

Angailen swung only 2-for-5, but tallied four RBIs.

Enforcers 15, Braves 2

The Braves infield blinked first, allowing the Enforcers to take a 2-0 lead off errors in the second inning.

The Enforcers added another run off a wild throw in the third before trotting ahead, 6-0, in the fourth inning. They worked around another run off an error before Joaquin Saralu drove in Dennis Cabrera with a double. Saralu was then singled home by Kier Agda.

The Enforcers inevitably broke open the game with a five-run gash in the fifth inning off three hits and aggression on the base path.

The Braves only two runs came in the bottom frame, but a comeback was never in the cards, as the Enforcers tacked up four more runs in the sixth inning for a sound victory.

Shakobe Rangamar drilled an RBI double in the sixth inning and finished 3-for-4 at the plate with two runs, while Jim-Boy Laniyo went 3-for-4 with three runs and a stolen base.

Comets 16, Red Sox 5

The Red Sox's Delin Ruesora hammered a grand slam in the opening frame for a promising start, but the Comets matched their effort in the bottom frame with patience at the plate and an RBI single by Austin Hocog.

The Comets then seized control, 6-5, after the second inning from a solo shot by Aurel Mendiola and an RBI base rip by Erik Cruz, who scored Edmund Cruz. The Red Sox managed a run off an error in the top of the inning.

The Comets tapped Mendiola to the mound at the start of the third inning and he kept the Red Sox at bay, while his team pulled away, 9-5, in the fourth off a pair of RBI doubles from Mendiola and Babauta.

Then Mendiola left the yard the second time for three runs in the fourth and Babauta obliged with a solo blast later in the inning as the Comets ran away in the end. The winning team bashed four more hits in the seven-run surge.

Twins 11, Braves 1

The Twins took an early 6-0 lead in the first inning as they cashed in on some sketchy pitching with a sacrifice fly and a trio of base hits by the bottom of its order. Richard Atalig, Austin Deleon Guerrero, and Boz Igitol bagged RBIs with a walk, a sac-fly, and a base hit, respectively.

The Braves managed their only run in the second inning from a sacrifice bunt by Josenio Alvarez, but were limited to just base runners in the last three innings.

The Twins added two runs in the third and another three in the fourth, all primarily off errors en route to an easy win.

Atalig gave up one earned run off zero hits with four walks and 10 strikeouts through four and two-thirds innings.

MPU

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lopsided victory as he scored four goals, while Jehn Joyner and John Taisacan added three each. Jordan Butcher-Wade also hit the scoreboard for MPU Silver.

Shirley's FC 3, Tan Holdings FC 1

In the first game in Week 7 of the youth league, Shirley's FC edged Tan Holding's.

The victory was second in seven games for Shirley's FC, moving the team up to fourth place. Tan Holdings dropped to a 1-1-5 record and was dislodged from fourth to fifth spot.

Kyle Siscar broke the ice for Shirley's FC midway in the first half, while Saixiah Bagsic also scored in the opening frame for their 2-0 halftime lead.

A goal from Jeremie Tanghal early in the second half moved Tan Holding's within one, however Edward Cordero answered a few minutes later to seal the win.

Paire 3, Matansa 3

The third game of the weekend between Paire and Matansa resulted in a draw.

Ryu Tanzawa made the equalizer for Matansa in the 61st minute, while Sean Perez drilled a pair to keep his team in third place with its 4-2-1 card.

Paire, which led at the break, 2-1, also retained the No. 2 spot with its 5-1-1 slate. Scott Kim put Paire in the scoreboard just five minutes into the first half and then had another goal in the 27th for their 2-0 lead.

After being scoreless for more than 30 minutes, Perez ended the drought with his first goal, seven minutes before the first half buzzer sounded.

In the second half, Jeff Cheon started things out for Paire with his goal in the 46th minute for their 3-1 lead, but Matansa refused to give up, as Perez nailed his second one in the 49th off a penalty kick and Tanzawa also scored 12 minutes later.

MASGA

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some nice takedowns and although the latter was tough to pin down, the early attack lifted the former to the win.

After falling behind in the first round, Rangamar led out with some superman punches in the second before being taken for another ride. He quickly escaped and got to his feet, but was soon tangled in Masga's signature move. Rangamar dealt some elbows to Masga's back as the pair fought for position from the clinch, but the latter equalized the points with another quick slam.

Rangamar popped right back up again, however, and they knotted back up in the clinch. This time Rangamar pulled Masga to the ground, but ended up on the bottom and was saved by the bell.

Then in the third round, Rangamar expended a lot of energy for an early slam and Masga reversed soon after hitting the mat. Masga tried to lock in an arm-bar submission from the top position, but had his hands full trying to keep a handle on Rangamar to the final bell. Masga was the more technical fighter and managed the dominant position for the majority of the squabble.

Meanwhile, Masga's teammates Ronald Hermosilla and Seong Ho Chung also posted victories in their respective MMA pairings.

Hermosilla's debut ended quickly with a tap out victory over Zogai's Brandon "Commotion" Camacho (0-2) just 1:33 into round one.

As both fighters took a while to find their range, Camacho landed a nice kick to the ribs. Moments later, Hermosilla dropped Camacho with a swift head kick and pounced on top of the latter until the tap.

Chung was also victorious in his debut and earned a split decision over independent Ray "Faluwasch" Teregeyo (0-1) in their 145-lb bout.

Chung took the match to the ground right off the bat and scored a couple takedowns in round one. Teregeyo got wiser to his tactic in the second round and employed a good use of the sprawl. He also opened up a little mouse under Chung's left eye in the second round. Then both fighters brought it in the final round, but Chung was declared the victor as he was the more aggressive fighter.

In other results, Countershot's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (9-5) made it past Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna (4-14) with an arm-bar, 2:45 into the first round of their 125lb-bout. Muna started out with a nice slam and managed top position, but Alvarez kept his cool and waited for the chance to nail the submission.

In K-1 Kickboxing action, Countershot's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos (1-1), TT's Tavita "Chamoan Sensation" Lueta (2-0), and Guam Muay Thai's Justin "JD" Dizon (1-1) all came away winners over the weekend.

Santos had a hard earned split decision victory over Zalaka's Jordan Manglona (0-2) in their 120-lb pairing. Santos took a low blow in the first round and needed all the time allotted by referee Keith Nabors to recover, but was able to competitively finish the round. Santos then landed a series of knees and scored a knockdown in the second round and showed superior technical skills in the deciding three minutes. After the fight, Santos said he hopes to fight Jordan "Jungle Boy" Ogo sometime in the future.

Tavita was also issued a split decision victory over Guam Muay Thai's Jeremy "Pac-Man" Javellana (0-1) in their 140-lb match. Tavita came out swinging and won the first round with share aggression, but Javellana battled back in the second turn to make life difficult for the judges, heading into the last round. Tavita maintained a slightly higher pace throughout the fight and showed the judges that he wanted it a little more in the payoff period.

Dizon grinded out a split decision over Danny Agulto (0-1) in their 140-lb bout. Agulto did not care to show any respect for Dizon as the latter performed the traditional Waikru Muay Thai dance upon entering the cage, but the latter was not demoralized and simply outperformed the former during the real show.

Dizon landed some nice kicks to Agulto's knees and scored a sweep to take round one. Agulto was already showing signs of fatigue in the second round so Dizon chipped away at him and the former refused to step forward in the last round, essentially handing the fight over to the latter. Agulto threw a few wild haymakers, but did not connect and at one point fell to the canvas just to catch his breath.

Lastly, in the first of two boxing exhibitions that kicked off the night, DAT Gym's Pete "Hands Down" Castro (1-0) defeated Countershot's Julius Yangetmai (0-1) via TKO 42 seconds into the second round of their 160lb-bout.

Both fighters put on an exciting curtain raiser, but a big body blow earned Castro the victory.

In the second exhibition bout, Trench Tech's Juan Lansangan (2-0) was awarded a split decision over Zalaka's Jake "Can't Stop" Ilo. However the crowd expressed its displeasure on the result of the 145-lb fight.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	37	27	.578	—
x-New York	34	30	.531	3
Philadelphia	33	30	.524	3 1/2
New Jersey	22	42	.344	15
Toronto	22	42	.344	15

Southeast Division

y-Miami	46	18	.719	—
x-Atlanta	38	26	.594	8
x-Orlando	36	28	.563	10
Washington	17	46	.270	28 1/2
Charlotte	7	56	.111	38 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	48	16	.750	—
x-Indiana	41	23	.641	7
Milwaukee	30	33	.476	17 1/2
Detroit	24	40	.375	24
Cleveland	21	42	.333	26 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	47	16	.746	—
x-Memphis	39	25	.609	8 1/2
x-Dallas	36	29	.554	12
Houston	33	32	.508	15
New Orleans	20	44	.313	27 1/2

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	46	18	.719	—
x-Denver	36	28	.563	10
Utah	34	30	.531	12
Portland	28	36	.438	18
Minnesota	26	39	.400	20 1/2

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	41	24	.631	—
x-L.A. Clippers	40	24	.625	1/2
Phoenix	33	31	.516	7 1/2
Golden State	23	41	.359	17 1/2
Sacramento	21	43	.328	19 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	6	.600	—
Toronto	9	6	.600	—
Baltimore	9	7	.563	1/2
Tampa Bay	9	7	.563	1/2
Boston	4	10	.286	4 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	10	6	.625	—
Chicago	9	6	.600	1/2
Cleveland	8	6	.571	1
Minnesota	5	11	.313	5
Kansas City	3	12	.200	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	13	3	.813	—
Oakland	8	9	.471	5 1/2
Seattle	7	10	.412	6 1/2
Los Angeles	6	10	.375	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	12	4	.750	—
Atlanta	10	6	.625	2
New York	8	6	.571	3
Miami	7	8	.467	4 1/2
Philadelphia	7	9	.438	5

Central Division

St. Louis	11	5	.688	—
Cincinnati	7	9	.438	4
Milwaukee	7	9	.438	4
Pittsburgh	6	9	.400	4 1/2
Houston	6	10	.375	5
Chicago	4	12	.250	7

West Division

Los Angeles	12	4	.750	—
Colorado	8	7	.533	3 1/2
Arizona	8	8	.500	4
San Francisco	7	7	.500	4
San Diego	5	12	.294	7 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANGALI

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ceived trophies for their respective feats during the league's awards ceremony after the championship match.

DLX officials also handed other team and individual awards, including the Best Coach plum that went to Blue Haus' Dante Olivos and the Sportsmanship Award which the Sunrisers/Island Apparel took home.

The Sunrisers and Andhok's, which played in the battle for third place, also took home trophies for placing third and fourth, respectively, while QQ was handed the runner-up trophy.

Mangali went home with two individual trophies, as he also made it to the Mythical Five, joining Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon, Shirley's Bruce Berline, the Sunrisers' Jawn Joyner, and teammate Rolly Paraiso.

Trophies were also awarded to Blue Haus' Brendon Talania (best in steals) and Sam Fernandez (steal), Mobil's Jun Estolas (assists), Berline (rebounds), and Andhok's Grille's Tim Wesley (blocks).

DLX/Miller Lite League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

QQ Rent A Car's Rolly Paraiso drives against three Blue Haus defenders during the first quarter of their title game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

QQ Rent A Car and Blue Haus players battle for the loose ball.

QQ Rent A Car's Dan Mateo, left, tries to steal the ball from Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon.

Blue Haus' Bernard Aquino goes for a tough shot against QQ Rent A Car's Wowie Abuel.

Blue Haus' Junar Guiab drives to the basket.

Blue Haus' Badong Camacho beats QQ Rent A Car's Arthur Montes in the rebound play.

QQ Rent A Car's Lerio Pagarao, center, challenges the defense of Blue Haus' Badong Camacho, left, and Leo Itaas.

Blue Haus' Leo Itaas, left, and QQ Rent A Car's Rolly Paraiso, center, are tangled up during a rebound play.

Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon pulls up for a baseline jumper against QQ Rent A Car's Rolly Paraiso.

QQ Rent A Car's Wowie Abuel, right, looks for an open teammate as he is guarded by Blue Haus' Jomary Tumaquip.

Lakers outlast Thunder in double OT

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Parra's grand slam helps Arizona end 5-game skid

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Comets down Falcons, sweep regular season

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Dandan Comets' Aurel Mendiola rears back to swing during their game against the Bank of Saipan Red Sox in the Majors division last Thursday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Dandan Comets overcame the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Falcons (6-4), 5-3, to complete a regular season sweep of the Majors division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Comets, who also notched a win over the Bank of Saipan Red Sox (2-10), 16-5, last Thursday, finished the round-robin regular season with an impressive 12-0.

In other Majors results, IT&E (5-7) solidified its hold to the eighth playoff spot with a 14-9 victory over the San Vicente A's (4-8), while the Attorney Robert T. Torres-Kagman Little Legals (5-6) upset the Pacific Amusement-Rays(7-4), 3-2. The Ol'Aces (9-3) routed the Red Sox, 11-1; the DPS Dare Program Enforcers (9-3) rolled over the Natibu Tanapaga Braves (3-9),

See **COMETS** on **Page 26**

Mangali, Camacho split MVP honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The coveted MVP awards in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship/Miller Lite League went to the players of this season's finalists.

QQ Rent A Car's Elgene Mangali took the regular season MVP, while Badong Camacho won the Finals MVP after lifting Blue Haus to a 76-69 victory in the winner-take-all finals last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mangali led QQ's second wind, as he helped the team win three of its last four games in the regular season after a so-so performance in the first part of the elimination round. The QQ shooting forward scored in double figures in eight of the nine games in the regular season, having his best offensive showing against Mobil when he drained 29 points. Mangali's lone single digit production (seven points) came against Andhok's, but still he averaged 17.4 points in the elimination round where QQ finished at the No. 5 spot.

In the first game in the playoffs, Mangali continued to top the boards for QQ, as he netted 24 markers in their 78-75 overtime win against Crystal Pure. The QQ gunner then picked up where he left off in the semis win (94-86) against pennant champions Sunrisers, as he nailed 25 points. In the finals, despite getting into foul trouble early, Mangali still led QQ in scoring with his 23 markers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

QQ Rent A Car's Elgene Mangali drives against Blue Haus' Badong Camacho during the second quarter of their championship game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Camacho had an inconsistent performance in the regular season for Blue Haus, but delivered when it counted the most when he logged 21 points in their championship win over QQ. Camacho was the big difference for Blue Haus, as QQ defenders found it difficult to stop him, as the Finals MVP hit a couple of short jumpers and underneath shots.

Incidentally, Camacho was also the Finals MVP in Blue Haus' title win over MDX, 70-43, in the inaugural DLX caging, and the lanky forward scored 21 points, too, in the one-game finals.

Camacho and Mangali re-

See **MANGALI** on **Page 26**

MPU Silver extends streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Silver stretched its winning run to seven after showing no love lost to sister team MP United Blue during their second meeting in the boys U15 division of the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

MPU Silver cruised to a 13-0 victory over MPU Blue, duplicating its first-round rout of the latter to improve to a 7-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the six-team field. MPU Blue absorbed its sixth loss, as the first win of the season remained elusive.

Ryota Ito led MPU Silver's

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa FC striker, right, unintentionally hit the knee of a Paire player during the second half of their game in the NMIFA U15 league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Saturday.

Masga beats Rangamar, keeps perfect record

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga throws Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar to the mat during their bout in the Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort last Friday.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred featherweight Vince "The Clinch" Masga remained undefeated in three fights after scoring a unanimous victory over Marianas Elite veteran Derrick "El-Peligro" Rangamar during their bout in the Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable World at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort last Friday.

Masga dominated Rangamar (5-9) in the opening round with

See **MASGA** on **Page 26**